

Mushoku Tensei:Redundancy Deleted Chapter 23

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Chapter 23: The Tale[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

Long, long time ago, there was a boy name Ars.

Ever since very little, he was strong-willed and strong bodied.

Sadly, his parents both had passed away before he could remember.

Not only did he live a distant, rural village, but his household was among the poorest of the poor.

But Ars felt blessed.

Because Ars had a smart and capable brother, and the villagers were generous to the orphans.

Helpfully, Ars earned many jobs due on account of his incredible strength.

Most importantly, he had a girl he loved.

Because of a chronic condition, she had long been bedridden. She was told that she won't live long.

Every day after work, Ars would always drop by the girl's windowsill and chat with her.

To Ars, this was most important, irreplaceable part of his day.

The girl didn't have long to live.

But Ars knew no other way to help her.

Truth be told, the girl herself knew that her time was short.

Thus the girl never made any selfish request, only eagerly looking forward to the moments she spent chatting with Ars.

Ars thought everyday would be spent like this, for the remainder of her short life.

But one day, the girl was lying flat on her bed, staring toward the outside sky.

The sky was a strange purple.

"Ars, have you heard? The sky was once a beautiful blue, before the Demon Lord appeared."

Ars had heard of this before.

Long ago, long before Ars was born, the Demon Lord have already existed.

One day, to conquer the human world, the Demon Lord prepared an invasion force.

The Demon Lord conquered half the world. He even changed the color of the sky on a whim.

"Even if only once, I'd like to see that blue sky before I die."

The girl said.

Since Ars met her, this was the first time the girl made a "selfish" request.

No, not really selfish.

More like an offhand comment, an impossible dream.

Ars knew also, that the comment was offhand.

Not truly a request to Ars.

But this girl was looking ever more frail than usual.

A look of defeat on her over an impossible dream.

In that moment Ars made up his mind.

The girl would see the blue sky before her death.

But despite his strength, Ars was but a peasant.

Lacking both knowledge and wisdom.

Of course, he had no idea how to turn the sky blue.

"Brother, I want to turn the sky blue. How do I do that?"

So he decided to ask his brother.

A few years older, their parents were able to afford his brother's education when they're still alive.

If there's a problem, just ask Brother.

"Em..."

Brother racked his brain about Ars' question.

It was a difficult question even for Ars' brother.

After thinking for a while, the brother answered,

"Since it's the Demon Lord that made the sky purple, if the Demon Lord was defeated, the sky would probably return to how it was."

Ars made up his mind to face the Demon Lord and started to packing.

Realizing Ars' actions, the brother rushed to add,

"Brother, the Demon Lord is an terrifying existence. To even just approach him, you'll probably be destroyed to pieces."

"Still, I must go."

No hesitation in his words, so the brother gave up on dissuading him.

Once Ars made up his mind, he won't listen.

"You will never reach the Demon Lord, if you go in blind. First, you should travel to our country's capital. I'll draw a map for you, get you a new pair of boots, and food for the road."

The brother did his best to prepare Ars for his journey.

Ars wasn't one to abandon his goal half way.

Still, the Demon Lord was an overwhelming existence.

He probably won't make it back alive.

It's a death wish.

But at least, he could keep Ars alive a little longer.

Thus, Ars began his journey.

Wielding a map, wearing new boots, and on his sash sheathed his late father's dagger...

He left behind the village of his love ones...

Part 2[\[edit\]](#)

Through the wilderness, over the mountains, Ars finally arrived at Capital City.

First time in his life, Ars witnessed a city and a crowd so large.

Seeing that's before him, Ars had an idea.

All he needed to do is ask anyone, and he'd have his answer.

"Defeat the Demon Lord? Just head to the Castle. In times like these, they could use all the help they could get."

Someone said to him.

Accordingly, Ars headed to the castle.

Ars had never seen a building so large.

"I want to defeat the Demon Lord."

He said at the entrance, and Ars received permission for an audience with the King.

The King sat on his dark grey throne, greeting each visitor, but he was shocked when it came to Ars' turn.

"Why? You're but a child!"

"Child I may be, but I wish to defeat the Demon Lord. Please tell me where he lay."

"And what would a child like you to do? Go home."

A knight stood in audience said,

"War is a place for adults. It is for protecting children, like you, that we're here."

Other adults in the room murmured in agreement.

You're but a boy.

You belong at home, not on the battlefield.

No matter how many times Ars shouted, "I'll defeat the Demon Lord!" No one heeded him.

Only the Soothsayer said this,

"Find the Five Sages. Certainly they will be of help to you. But you must not challenge the Demon Lord, before you find the Five Sages!"

Hearing the Soothsayer's words, Ars began his search for the Five Sages.

It was a long, long journey.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

Ars continued his journey.

He really didn't have any idea on where to go.

But Ars truly believed he could find him.

Thus with everyone he met, he asked for the Sages' whereabouts, and went.

Then, he finally found him.

Across the grass plains, in a cavern by a river, Ars first found his Sage.

One with mystical eyes and silver-green hair.

Littered around him were shields of the colors of his hair.

"Hello, Sage."

"Child of man, hello."

"My name is Ars."

"I'm Szilard, the Second Sage. I live only for conviction."

"I have my own reasons, but I must defeat the Demon Lord, can you lend me your power?"

"My apologies, but I'm very busy. Very, very busy."

"What are you doing?"

"I'm making shields for children of a distant future. These would definitely protect them when the time comes."

The Sage looked at Ars and said.

"May I ask, child of man, why do you wish to defeat the Demon Lord?"

"For a person important to me, I want to return the blue sky."

"Ah, you have conviction! Then I shall lend my shield to you. It'll definitely protect you too."

"Thank you, Sage."

After receiving Sage's shield, Ars continued his journey.

He still didn't have any idea on where to go.

But Ars truly believed he could find him.

Thus with everyone he met, he asked for the Sages' whereabouts, and went.

Then, he finally found him.

He found his second at the northmost edge of the continent.

One with sharp eyes and silver hair.

In the depths of a freezing, snow-covered forest, he was building a big, big ship.

"Hello, Sage."

"Child of man, hello."

"My name is Ars."

"My name is Perugius, the Third Sage. I live only for loyalty."

"I have my own reasons, but I must defeat the Demon Lord, can you lend me your power?"

"My apologies, but I'm very busy. Very, very busy."

"What are you doing?"

"I'm making a boat for children of a distant future. It would definitely become useful when they need to travel to a place far away."

The Sage looked at Ars and said.

"May I ask, child of man, why do you wish to defeat the Demon Lord?"

"For a person important to me, I want to return the blue sky."

"Ah, you are loyal! Then I shall lend my boat to you, because the Demon Lord is at a place far away."

After receiving Sage's ship, Ars continued his journey.

He still didn't have any idea on where to go.

But Ars truly believed he could find him.

Sometimes he walked on foot, sometimes he traveled by boat, with everyone he met, he asked for the Sages' whereabouts, and went.

Then, he found him again.

He found his third high in the mountains.

One with dark eyes and silver-black hair.

He wielded a great hammer, forging steel over an anvil.

"Hello, Sage."

"Child of man, hello."

"My name is Ars."

"My name is Chaos, the Fourth Sage. I live only for the pursuit."

"I have my own reasons, but I must defeat the Demon Lord, can you lend me your power?"

"My apologies, but I'm very busy. Very, very busy."

"What are you doing?"

"I'm making swords for children of a distant future. Because they would definitely wish to live."

The Sage looked at Ars and said.

"May I ask, child of man, why do you wish to defeat the Demon Lord?"

"For a person important to me, I want to return the blue sky."

"Ah, so you have a pursuit! Then I shall lend my sword to you. With this, even the Demon Lord may be slayed."

After receiving Sage's sword, Ars continued on his journey.

He still didn't have any idea on where to go.

But Ars truly believed he could find him.

At times on foot, he was forced to defend himself with the sword, with everyone he met, he asked for the Sages' whereabouts, and went.

Then, he found him again.

He found the fourth on a lonely island in the middle of the sea.

One with fierce eyes and silver-blue hair.

He's crafting a large sheet of leather into a bracelet.

"Hello, Sage."

"Child of man, hello."

"My name is Ars."

"My name is Maxwell, the Fifth Sage. I live only for love."

"I have my own reasons, but I must defeat the Demon Lord, can you lend me your power?"

"My apologies, but I'm very busy. Very, very busy."

"What are you doing?"

"I'm making bracelets for children of a distant future. Because the wicked would definitely strike out at them."

The Sage looks at Ars and he said.

"May I ask, child of man, why do you wish to defeat the Demon Lord?"

"For a person important to me, I want to return the blue sky."

"Ah, so you understand love! Then I shall lend my shining bracelet to you. May it protect you from the wicked."

After finding four sages.

Ars continued his journey.

But the last Sage was nowhere to be found. No one knew where he was; no one knows who he was.

Slowly, Ars began to think to himself.

Why, maybe the last Sage doesn't exist at all.

The first Sage he met said he was the Second Sage.

Then, maybe I couldn't find the First Sage in the first place.

Regardless, Ars continued his search.

Desperately searching for the Sage.

But he could not be found.

Ars couldn't find the last Sage.

But Ars already had the sword, shield, and bracelet.

He also had a boat to reach the Demon Lord.

Seeing all that he had obtain, Ars couldn't help but ponder,

"Maybe just with these, I can defeat the Demon Lord."

How terrible.

Without finding the Five Sages, Ars headed toward the Demon Lord.

He had already forgot what the Soothsayer once told him.

Part 4[\[edit\]](#)

The Demon Lord lived in a terrifying place.

Surrounded by poison marshes, it is impossible to approach with normal means.

Even after crossing the marshes, it's infested with unseen monsters, giant and ferocious, and demons beckoning for your fall.

But because of the boat, Ars easily crossed the marshes.

When attacked by monsters, he had his sword and shield.

The shield was incredibly sturdy, even the monster's teeth and claws failed to cause Ars any harm.

The sword was incredibly sharp, even with the bare minimum of his strength, Ars could cut them in half.

Sometimes, a demon would whisper, "with this sword, shield, and boat, even becoming king is not a dream.", but it went unheard.

Because his bracelet can ward evil, it protected Ars from the demons' whispers of temptation.

Finally, Ars arrived before the Demon Lord's castle.

The Demon Lord's castle was even greater than man's, cloaked in an eerie darkness.

"Uhahaha! How daring of you to show up here, human child! What is your purpose?"

The Demon Lord was a terrible beast of gigantic proportions, with a large mouth and purple hair.

"For a person important to me, please return the sky back to normal."

"Impossible! I really like this purple sky! Uhahaha!"

The Demon Lord would not listen.

The Demon Lord wouldn't understand what an important person is in any case.

"Then I must defeat you!"

Ars challenged the Demon Lord.

Wielding his sword, shield, and bracelet, Ars lunged confidently at the Demon Lord.

But the Demon Lord was unexpectedly agile.

As if foreseeing the future, he dodged Ars' sword.

Untouchable no matter how Ars struck.

"Uhahaha, can't touch me! Can't touch me! Not even close! Now it's my turn!"

Smiling, the Demon Lord punched Ars.

Ars tried to use his shield to block the Demon Lord's enormous fist.

"Gahh!"

Yet, even so. In the next moment, the Demon Lord grabbed Ars' shield and tossed it aside.

Pressed against the wall, Ars felt the full brunt of the punch, and panicked.

Even the sword and shield the Sages lend him were useless against the Demon Lord.

"Uhahaha! I'll smash you to pieces. I'll eat you from head to toe! I bet you taste delicious!"

The giant Demon Lord approached.

Ars couldn't help but run.

Even with a strong will, against the first opponent to ever send him into a panic, Ars couldn't continue the fight.

Tossing aside his sword and shield, removing his bracelet, he managed to escape from the Demon Lord. Ars had lost all his equipment.

Part 5[\[edit\]](#)

Ars escaped from the Demon Lord's castle.

The miasma from the poison marshes slowly ate away at Ars' flesh.

But another poison was sapping Ars' heart.

"I ran away, even though there's an important person waiting for me."

This poison was "defeat."

Ars was distraught, walking slumped and aimlessly.

Even with the sword and shield, he couldn't defeat the Demon Lord.

Tears fell from his eyes, drop by drop they wetted the earth.

Without his bracelet, demons that fed on sadness could approach him.

As they taste those tears falling from Ars' eyes, they whispered,

"Tiny hero, what's wrong? Why do the tears keep falling?"

"I can't beat the Demon Lord."

"But that's only natural, the Demon Lord is too strong, and you are just a boy."

"I want to return the sky to normal."

"It's impossible, you're a helpless boy."

"Then what should I do?"

"Nothing you could do. You're tiny and weak. You can't do anything."

Becoming even more distraught from the demon's whispers, Ars approached the edge of marsh.

Deciding whether to jump into the poison marshes.

If he jumped in, Ars' tiny body would certainly disintegrate in an instant.

But Ars had already gave up.

At the edge of the poison marsh, he readied himself to jump.

Just as he was about to jump, he saw a peculiar house by the marsh's shore.

A strange house. shape of a turtle shell.

"What is that? Do you know anything about that house?"

But in that moment, the demon had already disappeared.

No matter where he looked, it's nowhere to be found.

Unexpectedly, a holy aura surrounds the area.

The aura could have only came from that house.

That must be where the Sage lives.

Thinking that, Ars hesitantly walked toward the house.

"Excuse me."

"Child of man, hello. What's wrong? This is no place for a human child."

Inside is someone with gentle eyes and silver-red hair.

"My name is Ars. Even though I wanted to return the color of the sky, I failed to defeat the Demon Lord."

"I'm a man without name or place, the last Sage. I live only for my mission."

These words reminded Ars.

He was to find the Five Sages.

He mustn't challenge the Demon Lord before then.

Remembering so, an inexplicable courage flooded out.

It wasn't impossible. He made a mistake.

"I'm Ars. Last Sage, to defeat the Demon Lord, can you lend me your power?"

"My apologies, but I'm very busy. Very, very busy."

"What are you doing?"

"I'm gathering strength for children of a distant future. Because they have an enemy that they must defeat."

The Sage looks at Ars and he said.

"May I ask, child of man, why do you wish to defeat the Demon Lord?"

"For a person important to me, I want to return the blue sky."

"Ah, so you have a mission! But that wish, was it really for someone important to you?"

"Of course. She wants to see the blue sky."

"Then, I will lend you a small bit of power. Use it to defeat the Demon Lord."

Then, Ars borrowed the power of the first, but also the last, Sage.

Even that small amount, it was without a doubt an overwhelming power.

After receiving this power, Ars understood how to properly wield the sword and shield.

And how to strengthen the shine of the bracelet.

And how to make the boat fly.

Ars got on the flying boat and headed toward the Demon Lord Castle.

When he wore the bracelet that was dropped before the castle, it shone brightly.

As if reacting to that shine, the sword and shield flew back into his hands.

"Uhahaha! The child returns! This time I'll definitely eat you! For I love delicious food!"

His second round with the Demon Lord began.

This time, Ars had obtained Power.

When he swung his sword, he could wound the Demon Lord; When he block with his shield, he could send the Demon Lord flying.

With such overwhelming power, the Demon Lord was no longer even a threat.

"Ugh!"

Finally, Ars' sword cut through the Demon Lord, with a final cry it passed away.

A rainbow colored light shone out of the Demon Lord's remains.

As if responding to that light, the sky's colors returned to normal.

Ars looked upwards toward that clear blue sky!

This was what Ars and his loved one searched endlessly for.

Ars wanted to return immediately by the girl's side.

But he cannot.

For he must return all that he borrowed.

First he visited the First, and the Last, Sage, to return his power.

Next he visited the Fifth Sage, to return his bracelet.

Then he visited the Fourth Sage, to return his sword.

And he visited the Third Sage, to return his flying ship.

Finally he visited the Second Sage, to return his shield.

After returning all that he borrowed, he returned to the Capital City. Human's capital city.

The city hosted a grand banquet.

For everyone knew that if the sky had returned to normal, then the Demon Lord must have been defeated.

When Ars reached the castle, the king welcomed him with open arms.

"Oh, Ars the Hero! You have returned! You even defeated the Demon Lord! May I bestow to you, both this kingdom and my beloved princess, take my place as king!"

Faced with the King's offer, Ars refused.

An important person waits for me, he said.

But, in appreciation of the Soothsayer's wise words, Ars stayed for a day.

Then, he finally returned to his village.

From when his journey began, it had been a long, long time.

But he won back the blue sky.

It's time to see his loved ones.

He wanted to see her smile.

But welcoming him back to his village, was his brother, sad and downcast.

"Brother, please raise your head up high and see this blue sky. I have defeated the Demon Lord and returned!"

Yet the brother remained distraught.

"And have my loved one see it too. She must be so happy to see the clear blue sky."

Yet, Brother remained unchanged.

Finally, Ars had to ask,

"Brother, why do you look so sad?"

"Brother, well, it's because.. listen, listen carefully. Because, she's gone."

"Who's gone?"

"Your loved one. She passed away this morning."

Hearing this, Ars smiled.

Even though it's lonely, even though it's sad, yet he still smiled.

"It's fine, if it's this morning. Then she definitely saw this blue sky she once dreamt of. She must have died smiling, saying 'what a beautiful sky,' as she slowly drifted away, surely?"

"No, she cried. She cried because she couldn't see you. Even more than the beautiful blue sky, she wanted to see you. She was always crying."

Ars was stunned when he heard this.

He thought finally succeed in fulfilling the wish of his loved one.

But he was wrong.

Her true desire was always be together with Ars.

To treasure the short time before her death.

That was her true desire.

"Ugh..."

Shaken, Ars fell to the ground before his brother.

Lost, tears began to shed.

From then on Ars was always crying.

Because, there's nothing more he could do. He done wrong on the most important thing.

Always crying, always, till his death.

Part 6[\[edit\]](#)

"And, The End."

Aisha clapped the book shut.

"..."

"Well, the ending was rather dark. The lesson here is happiness is right by you, but I like happy endings better."

Ars sat on her thighs, staring at the cover.

Of course, not the Ars of the story, but the firstborn son of Greyrat House.

"It was probably set during the First Demon-Human War, based on myths about the hero Ars, but completely different from what I know. Nothing about his companions, and an extra Sage showed up... I guess it's only natural the story got changed a bit."

Even so, Aisha flipped the book open again.

A very old tome.

Far older than any books Greyrat House had.

Even through the jacket was a clear white, it's hard to tell what kind of leather it was made of.

Only that the color reminded her of something. Completely flawless despite the age.

Even though the pages were already worn and torn.

The pages held up pretty well, all things considered, if the book came about near the end of the First Demon-Human War.

Entitled "Story of Ars."

An unpretentious book.

"I only read this because Ars asked, but where did you find this? It's written in the Fight God Language."

"I got it from Orsted-sama."

"What? You took it without asking? No, you shouldn't be doing that."

"I did not! I was visiting with Papa. It caught my eyes, so Orsted said, 'Take it if you like.'"

Ars still looked rather depressed when he spoke.

As if all that occurred, happened to himself personally.

A fairy tale ending where no one won redemption, a bad end.

Being the protagonist's namesake made Ars rather emotionally invested, especially with how Aisha brought the story to life.

"Don't worry. Ars will definitely find happiness~"

"..."

Aisha patted Ars' head as she hugged him.

Whenever Ars felt down, this always seemed to turn him around.

But that was when he was little.

With his tenth birthday approaching, Ars had been increasingly hard to coax.

Today too, his mood failed to improve.

"Aisha-nee."

"What is it?"

Ars asked suddenly.

"The Ars from the story, how could he find happiness?"

"Huh? Well... Even if he stayed with her, she would have died. Unless he gave up on the Demon Lord, and instead ask the Sages for a cure. Then maybe they'll have a happy ending. The Demon Lord of heroic Ars was probably Kishirika-sama. The world won't find peace until Kishirika-sama was defeated, but humanity probably won't go extinct before they lived their lives together."

Aisha answered, nodding.

As expected of myself, what a perfect solution, Aisha thought.

"..."

Only that Ars' mood did not improve.

He furrowed his brow and tightened his mouth.

"Aisha-nee."

"What is it?"

"What is marriage?"

"That is, when two person who loves each other, stay together."

"I mean, what it means exactly?"

"Living under a roof together, eating together, raising a child..."

"How are babbies made?"

"Eh, that? Em... How am I going to explain this..? Maybe white-mama or blue-mama could explain this better..."

Aisha's face flushed slightly when she answered.

I guess the kid is getting to that age.

That thought made her heart drop.

"Aisha-nee. Getting married and making babies. Is that happiness?"

"Probably."

"Really? That is happiness?"

"Well, Onii-chan looks very happy, but I never got married, so I wouldn't~"

"Why not?"

"No prospects. Well, I like Onii-chan... I mean, Ars' papa, but marriage would be a little... inappropriate? We are siblings, after all."

"Oh..."

Ars turned towards Aisha, pouting.

Still atop of Aisha's thighs, he tapped his feets lightly against hers.

"Papa brought up the topic of my marriage."

"Huh?"

"Some royalty in Asura Kingdom, but she'll be much younger than me. It could be arranged if I wanted."

This was the first time Aisha had heard of this.

The boy in front of her is getting engaged.

It's a mere engagement now, but they'll be officially married as soon as they become adults.

Even though he's just a child...

A troublesome child she raised since birth...

"..."

Even so, Aisha could understand.

A royalty of Asura Kingdom would be a relative of Ariel.

A marriage alliance would be ideal way to forge a closer relationship with Rudeus.

If the girl is younger than Ars, she might even be Ariel's daughter herself.

"Ah, well, Ars is the firstborn son, so it's only natural."

"Forcing me into marriage?"

"Don't worry. Just tell papa, 'I don't wanna,' and papa would know what to do. But why would you hate getting married?"

"But I haven't even seen the girl, let alone marry her?"

Aisha took no heed.

She thought he just meant "I want a girl with big breasts!"

But Ars straighten up and looked into Aisha, and said resolutely,

"I want to marry Aisha-nee!"

"Huh? With me?"

Aisha's eyes widen, studying Ars carefully.

Aisha realized Ars was serious.

"Eh... Ara? Please don't. Ars don't want to marry an okaasan like me. Ars would immediately regret it, if we actually get married. You would definitely say, I wish I had married someone younger and such."

"Age doesn't matter. Just look at Norn-nee and Ruijerd, their age gap is even greater!"

"Well, Ruijerd is of Demon Race, so he doesn't look his age."

"So it's okay for Ruijerd to marry someone who will age faster than him?"

"Well... I suppose."

"Then age doesn't matter! I like Aisha-nee."

This was neither a mere joke nor faint praise.

Nor naive words of a child.

At least Aisha thought so.

It wasn't like Aisha never had been confessed to before.

Working with the mercenaries, confessions were a regular occurrence.

Ars right now shared the same look they had.

"... Well."

Aisha studied Ars carefully.

Even though he's still young, in looks he took just after Rudeus.

Not the current Rudeus.

But the Rudeus when they first met.

Now that she thought of it, Rudeus was around Ars' age during their reunion.

Back then during her moment of crisis, Rudeus suddenly came to her rescue.

When found out how she despised him, he hurried to disgust his identity.

He was so cool when rescuing her, yet so sloppy with the disguise. She decided then, it won't be so bad serving someone like that for rest of her life.

And in fact, that was what she did.

But, right now, Ars is the splitting image of Rudeus back then.

"..."

Aisha felt her heartbeat quicken.

No, this felt different from with Rudeus, her heart was throbbing.

A feeling she never felt before, her chest tightened.

How happy would she be to let that feeling take her.

"Uhehe~ Thanks, but we can't."

Aisha restrained herself.

"Why not? Unless, you hate me?"

"Oh no, of course not. Our relationship is like siblings. If we get married, papa and mamas, and grandma would all be against it."

Aisha hugged Ars as she said.

Just as usual.

But unlike the usual, her heart were beating fast, and she hugged Ars even more tightly.

"Even though, I really, really, really like Ars too. I'm very happy~"

Aisha patted Ars' head as she said.

Ars silently accepted her pats.

Anytime something happened, Aisha would hug Ars, and Ars loved to be hugged by her.

Just like they have always done.

"Don't worry. When you grow older, you'll definitely find someone better!"

"Em."

But Ars felt something different from the hug this time.

Why it felt different, he can't say.

But something definitely changed.

"..."

While surrounded by Aisha's scent, Ars felt it. Things won't go back to the way it was anymore.

"... Em."

From that day forth, the relationship between Ars and Aisha began to change dramatically.

Their relationship was no longer the same.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)

Mushoku Tensei:Redundancy Deleted Chapter 24

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Chapter 24: The Opposition[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

Today's work went without a hitch as usual.

All the jobs recently has been related with Vice Captain Ariel.

It was all preparations for developing large teleportation grids all over Asura Kingdom.

This world considers teleportation circles a "forbidden" magical technique.

Nevertheless, Ariel still plans to remove the ban with her prerogative powers and officially set up teleportation circles all over the kingdom.

Of course, Holy Kingdom of Milis strongly objects, and there're protests among her citizens.

Given that the Fittoa Region Teleportation Disaster happened.

Victims of that incident certainly would find contention with said decree.

Of course, Asura Kingdom is no democracy, so it was passed into law despite protests.

On the other hand, such unrest might become breeding grounds for coups.

Since Ariel's life has always been targeted.

Regardless, Ariel was no doubt the best person to publicize it.

Having read the draft of her speech, she made a convincing case.

"A decade has passed since the Fittoa Region Teleportation Disaster, yet recovery remains a distant memory.

How many more decades before we regain those beautiful amber fields?

The Teleportation Disaster took many things from us.

For this, we must come to understand teleportation. We must research it.

To prevent the disaster from reoccurring, we have to understand why it happened.

It was for this reason that I decided to remove the ban on teleportation magic.

Certainly there'll be objections, and there'll be concerns.

Or perhaps within our generation, we would repeat that mistake.

But even failure shall become the breeding ground for our success, ushering in an ever more prosperous future for those generations to come."

The draft came out roughly like that.

Effort to bring the detractors to our side.

Ariel is a person of charisma and popularity. Of course, it'll certainly proceed as plans despite any objections.

The biggest challenge is probably the Milis followers.

Since it was the Church of Milis that designated "teleportation magic" as an ultimate forbidden technique.

For this I traveled to the Holy Kingdom of Milis.

I had the ears of the Miko and the Pope.

When I told them about our grand plans for teleportation circles, they looked extremely troubled.

At the minimum, they would not allow it within the Holy Kingdom of Milis.

I supposed plans for within the Milis Kingdom would have to be put on hold. For now, we would only make public the teleportation circles within Asura Kingdom.

After many audiences, I finally received the promise that "although we could not completely silence the opposition, at least the Pope and the Miko will not publically raise objections to the Asura Kingdom."

In exchange many concessions were made, but it couldn't be helped.

It's settled for now.

As a test case, in a remote corner of Fittoa Region, I setup a teleportation circle far from where the royalty might tread.

After repeated experiments, more would be added.

There would be resistance. For example, those that made a living transportation whose livelihood are threatened.

But if they took advantage of the teleportation circles, safety and efficiency would both greatly improve.

Ultimately, it's for the benefit of the people.

Of course, it also comes in handy for the ultimate battle with Laplace.

Orsted seem to know how to use the teleportation circles efficiently.

Anyways, I'm done for the day.

Without a break for so long, I really want to get well rested today at home.

"I'm home~"

With that in mind, I arrive at my doorsteps.

Surrounded by the kids, cuddling with the wives, enjoying a nice meal.

A home filled with love.

"...Eh? No one's home?"

Yet the normally bustling household is unusually quiet.

I suppose, it's only past noon.

Roxy, Lara, Ars, and Sieg are in school.

Sylphy should be grocery shopping.

Eris is walking Lily and Chris.

Aisha is probably with the Mercenaries?

Zenith isn't home, and neither is Jiro.

Looks like Lilia took Zenith somewhere.

Lucy begin attending Asura Royal Academy this year.

Boarding there too, probably.

So she's not home.

So it end up I'm home alone.

Ops, Beat is home.

Watching the house as always, thank you for your hard work.

I get to eat fluffy white rice tonight all due to you too, keeping the pests at bay.

Right, I shall add some fertilizer for you later.

With that in mind, I head upstairs.

"Oh... Oh..."

Suddenly, a voice meagers in from somewhere.

A heavy groan.

I guess someone is home after all.

I follow the origins of the sound upstairs.

And discovered it coming from Aisha's room.

"Ah... Oh..."

As if tormented by a nightmare, a hefty groan.

Is Aisha ill?

"Ah... That's great. Faster..."

Wait, no.

It's that.

The same sound made when I sleep with Roxy and Syphy.

And sometimes when Eris sleeps with me, one I'm quite familiar of.

"..."

This is rather unexpected.

Having some adult fun.

The thought of Aisha in that kind of relationship never crossed my mind.

I'm happy for her, but also a little sad, it's complicated.

Ultimately, Aisha is an adult now, and even as her brother I can tell that she's a beauty.

Not unusual at all for her to meet someone.

Or I might have made a mistake.

Maybe she came down with something, or I misheard, or she's getting a massage.

Or perhaps she's just wrestling, if my imagination may be allowed to run wild!... But wrestling isn't known in this world.

The possibilities are plenty.

"..."

A little awkward and unexpected, but there's nothing unbecoming about it. Let me settle down.

I should knock first, to give him a chance to introduce himself.

With Paul gone, it's my responsibility to play father's role for Norn and Aisha. That I settled on long ago.

I want to see with my own eyes, what kind of person he is.

I'll give him a tough time if he ends up a deadbeat.

It's for Aisha's own good.

But Aisha isn't one to be charmed so easily.

Even if he has some odd habits, he probably won't be a bad guy.

Anyways, I shouldn't get taken up by first impression, but try to figure out his true nature.

... Even though I was never very good at that.

Anyways, I should knock.

Just as I was about to, more noise came from the room.

"Oh, Ars, does it feel good?"

"Em. Yes.... Aisha-nee."

Instantly, I swung open the door.

"Huh!?"

"Wah!?"

Before my eyes is an impossible sight.

Aisha and Ars on the bed together.

Ars below, with Aisha on top.

Both are naked.

Both bodies covered in sweat.

Both spooked like cats, frozen still, eyes bugged out with only their heads twisted back.

"..."

They're wrestling...

Impossible.

Why would they wrestle with nary an underwear? And a particular smell permeates the room. There aren't even any folded chairs around.

That means... it's that.

Aisha and Ars....

"... Eh, oh."

I wish I made a mistake.

I wish Aisha was just giving Ars a massage when I swung open the door.

"Ha, aah, ugh."

Don't know what to say.

What the hell?

... What should I do? How did this happen...?

"Eh, Em, welcome back, Onii-chan... No, this is..."

Aisha wants to say something.

A situation impossible to explain.

But the truth finally dawned on me. I wasn't wrong, they were doing it.

"You two... Right now, shower, get dressed, and see me in the living room."

I managed to blurt out those words before I shut the door.

Just like that, I headed downstairs, arrived at the living room, and collapsed on a chair.

My strength left me.

My heart beats furiously.

My vision narrows.

I wish this was but a dream.

But the sound of rushing about from the second floor only reaffirmed the truth.

My tummy hurts, I want to hurl, my mind is blank.

Part 2[\[edit\]](#)

Just as Aisha and Ars were about to enter the bath, Sylphy and Lilia came home.

Both were shocked when they saw me, and rushed to ask what happened.

When they finally got me talking, I told them what I saw.

Lilia's face turned pale, when she saw I was serious, then flushed.

She tried to rush upstairs, but Sylphy stopped her.

Sylphy remained calm despite what I said.

Calm down, let's talk about this after Roxy and the rest come home, she said.

Lilia consented and went to make dinner.

While Aisha and Ars were bathing, Eris came in.

As soon as she saw me in the living room, she shouted out, "Who bullied you?"

Her reaction reminded me of that time I fought with Paul.

All I could do was attempt to calmly explain the situation, which Eris finds unbelievable.

But seeing how I look, and the gravity of the situation, Eris kept silent.

Lily and Chris took their turn in the bath after Aisha and Ars finished. They got dressed and came to the living room. With their arms crossed and eyes shut, they seated themselves in their respective seats.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

The family meeting has begun.

Let's start from the beginning and confirm the facts with these two.

When asked, Aisha smartly answered each question.

During this time, Ars never spoken a word.

eyes down, fists tight, he kept his silence.

What they did was confirmed.

According to Aisha, it was merely "practice."

"Yes, Ars-sama is getting to that age. I'm sure Master understand as well, Ars-sama will be quite the playboy. He'll attend the Asura Royal Academy after graduating from Magic University, right? When that happened, he'll find far more opportunities with women. Ultimately, Ars-sama is the firstborn son and have to continue the family's legacy. In order to help him avoid any mishaps, like fulfilling his marital duties, I consent to let him practice."

Aisha said with humbling honorifics.

Spoke like with outsiders present, in a cold, mechanical, and distant tone.

But even more than her tone, the content of her words are even foreboding.

Practice.

Making so light of this, it hits me rather hard.

Even though Aisha and Ars aren't blood siblings, in this house they were always treated as such.

At least in my view.

Of course, in this world, in this country, there are no prohibitions against marriage between close relatives.

Still... Making so light of that, it's not right.

I must admonish them.

Even though I'm not used to scolding people, I must in this case.

They must understand that they shouldn't have done that, and certainly not anymore.

"You can't."

"Why not?"

"Where do I even begin..?"

But what could I say?

In this moment Paul's face floats in my mind.

If Paul's here, he would know what to say.

You just can't! He'll definitely yell.

Or would he rather, after getting so stunned, stay mute and gloomy?

I'm the latter.

Really I don't know what to say.

Regardless, this is the crucial moment.

Depending on how the conversation goes, there might be no turning back.

I must carefully, cautiously pick my every word.

Yet, those words just won't come to me.

"Aisha! Do you even understand what you did!?"

Can't hold it in anymore, Lilia berated her.

Ultimately, and from the start, she was the most outraged than anyone else.

"I do. Ars-sama looked like so troubled. So before he get his hands on someone else and commit a grave mistake..."

"That's not I'm talking about!"

"... But mother, didn't you once said? The Master's demands, assent, no matter how distasteful. If so, why was it okay with Master, but not with Ars-sama?"

"That's because..."

Lilia also fell silent.

It's true that Lilia had once prod Aisha into seducing me.

Even though we never brought it up again when it failed...

"That was... Rudeus-sama never intended for that kind of relationship."

"What about when I chose to serve Rudeus-sama, even though he didn't intend for that either?"

"True..."

"Mother, haven't you realize, everything you asked for me, it was for your own sake?"

Lilia was speechless.

It's been long since I seem Lilia hit so hard.

"Of course, I don't begrudge you. Since it was also my wish to serve Master. But this time, I also did it for the good of the Greyrat House. There's no conflict between your goals and mine. There's really no reason for you to begrudge me. You're making a big fuss, don't you think it's for nothing?"

"Aisha... Are you doing this for revenge?"

"No, I did it out of gratitude, not revenge."

Hearing this, Lilia clenched her teeth and drooped her head.

Was that of anguish? Or out of grief?

Either way it's hard to watch.

Aisha puts on a good poker face in reaction.

In any other circumstance, she would be looking so dependable.

Since it's the same look during Mercenary Corp meetings.

It signifies that Aisha is in complete control.

Anticipating what the opponent might say, with a response prepared, and wrapping on the debate with a finishing statement...

"Aisha."

"What is it, Master?"

Even with me, she hasn't lost her cool.

Not a sign of nervousness.

What I'll say next, she has already anticipated it.

What's really going on here?

It doesn't seem like Aisha believes she done anything wrong.

Don't tell me, things are really not as terrible as I imagined?

That's not entirely impossible...

"Don't take that so casually."

"I didn't take it casually. I did my best for Ars-sama. Or are you saying there's a reason why I shouldn't?"

What she was trying to say was,

If you got something to say, just say it!

"Ars is family. He's like a brother to you, just like you and me. In that case... is that really okay?"

"You're mistaken. Master is my king, and Ars-sama my prince. Besides, doing those things with Master, I never ever thought of it as inappropriate. Even if you had made clear that the relationship between you and I are different."

"..."

This breaks my heart.

Was this how Aisha saw me the whole time?

I thought of myself as her brother, yet Aisha merely served me as her master?

Although it's true that she always worked in the house since we reunited in Sharia.

After so many years, I have assumed she no longer harbored such thoughts.

"Ah. Of course I considered everyone family. But, how should I say this, that's just a part of it. Master is my brother, and Ars my nephew, but both are also who I serve. Both aspects of our relationships are important to me."

"..."

She saw right through me and left me speechless.

How do I reach her? Even though I have so much to say, I can't find the words.

Is it because I dislike one-sidedly telling people what's wrong and right?

No. It's because I really can't dig down to the bottom of what is wrong.

Why can't Aisha and Ars do those things?

Why did it hit me so hard?

Why do I find it so revolting?

Why was I so adamant on calling a family meeting?

Who to blame? Who to scold? What shall be done?

I don't know.

In this situation, I can't visualize a way to explain myself clearly. Future Sight be damned.

Someone? Anyone? Convey my feelings for me?

As if begging for help, my eyes shift towards Roxy.

But she just looked downcast and pitiful.

"If only I... realized it earlier..."

She murmured.

No, this unreliable Roxy.

Utterly unhelpful.

It can't be helped. She's clueless in the subject of love.

Then... Eris? No, she's even worse.

I can only count on Sylphy.

"It already happened. It can't be helped."

Aisha suddenly spoke up to break the silence.

"Even though I did it for the sake of Ars-sama and the Greyrat House. Now that I thought about it, I did took it lightly. I was being inconsiderate. Just like Onii-chan said, too casual about it. That was my mistake. I'm sorry."

The mood relaxed somewhat.

Who's responsible for that goes without saying.

Aisha prepares her wrap up.

Taking the initiative to end this meeting.

With those words she can make the curtain calls. My fault, I'll reflect on this.

And finally "I won't do it again."

But I knew well.

Those were mere words.

This meeting only happened because they were sneaky about it.

If it really was for Ars, for the Greyrat House, she could have been upfront about it... Even if she couldn't, she could have consulted someone. She could even received permission for the sexual education.

In other words, she knew it was wrong, and did it anyways.

Even if she agreed to put a stop to it now, nothing guarantee it won't happen again.

Next time, she'll be more careful.

And no one would find out.

Aisha is capable of that.

"In the future, I won't do that with Ars..."

"So I can count you for Sieg too?"

The one that interrupted Aisha was Sylphy.

She have remained silent throughout the family meeting, listening quietly.

Staring with intensity than usual at Aisha.

Before finally spoken.

"Huh?"

"Since you have already enlightened Ars, can I'll leave the necessary education of Sieg to you too?"

What is Sylphy talking about?

That can't happen.

While I was thinking, she peered over and our sights crossed.

Let me handle this, her eyes say.

I'll leave it to her.

"Well, Sieg... is too early?"

"It's fine. Sieg will grow up one day. If it's practice, the earlier the better. Maybe even tonight? Would it be a bother?"

"No... Not a bother, but..."

"Of course, we can leave Clive to you too. Even though he's not of this household, he's still family."

Sweat dropped as Aisha heard such bold statements from Syphy.

Her sight wavered, only lingering for a moment with Ars.

Ars still had his head down.

But sensing Aisha peering over, his head raised a bit.

Their sights connected.

What's going to happen? What do we do?

Accepting the unease in Ars' eyes, Aisha made up her mind.

She raised her head and looked towards Sylphy, smiling, and said,

"Okay, I understand. Then leave the enlightening of Sieg and Clive to me."

As those words left her mouth, someone suddenly kicked off her chair and stood up.

"... You little!"

It was Eris.

Throughout this family meeting, she sat, arms crossed, mouth closed, eyes shut, just listening to the conversation.

But she suddenly opened her eyes, with a clenched fist she trotted towards Aisha, arm raised.

Surprised, Aisha rushed to cover her face.

"Ah...!?"

The blow didn't land on Aisha.

But the one seating beside her, Ars, with his head still hanging low.

Ars flew off his chair and landed against the wall.

His nose bled, but in shock he only stared blankly at Eris.

"You little! How dare you for making Aisha say all these things!"

"Because Aisha-nee said to leave everything to her..."

"What you mean because?"

Eris threw another punch at Ars.

Ars fell to the ground, groaning from the pain.

"I don't remember raising you to be an useless runt."

So agitated as Eris approached Ars.

"I taught you to protect good people! Who taught you that! Throw people under the wheel! Have you feel no shame!"

"Eris-nee, stop!"

Aisha threw herself over Ars to protect him.

"Get off, Aisha! I need to beat some sense back in him!"

Her aura seem suffice to beat both Aisha and Ars to death.

I rushed from behind to restrain Ers.

"Ers, stop! Calm down!"

"How can I be calm? You get it right?"

"Get what?"

I don't follow.

I get that Eris might feel disgraced, but I still don't follow.

"Everything Aisha said, it was all an act."

Sylphy finally left her seat and crossed over.

Using her hands to restrain Eris, Eris obeyed.

Standing before Ars and Aisha, Sylphy said in a kind tone,

"Say, Aisha. You hated the idea of doing this and that with Sieg, and with Clive, right?"

"..."

Aisha fell silent.

Stubbornly hugging Ars.

As if all her clever lies had just been exposed.

"You like Ars, and eventually it turned into that kind of relationship."

"..."

"If you went public with it, Rudeus and Lilia would both be against it, so you kept it quiet?"

"..."

"Or does Aisha just want to try it for once? Maybe that's your real intent?"

"No!"

The one that spoke last wasn't Aisha, but Ars.

"It's not like that! I told Aisha-nee that I like her, and want to marry her, but she refused! Again and again, I told her that I like her, even if just once, yet she still refuse! Yet I still pursue her, until Aisha-nee finally relent... It was me! It was my fault!"

Disregarding the bleeding from his nose, he shouted so desperately.

After listening to him, Sylphy looked once again at Aisha.

"So Aisha, was that the truth?"

"..."

The whole time as Sylphy stared intently at her, Aisha kept her head low.

Finally, she clenched her teeth and looked up.

"It's true! I like Ars!"

"Since when?"

Who asked that?

Might be me, but also might be Lilia or Roxy.

"Since he was born! When I first saw Ars! This child is special to me, from the start I have thought so!"

"..."

"As Ars grew, so did that feeling... But I still tried to restrain myself! After all, we're a decade apart! Not to say that he's the firstborn, thus needs a proper prospect for continuing the Greyrat House legacy! But Ars said me he loves me too!"

I finally saw the whole truth.

In other words, it's an ordinary story of falling in love.

Just that it happened between aunt and nephew.

I have always avoid that kind of relationship with Aisha.

I never intend for it to begin with, but most importantly she's my sister.

It never crossed my mind to see Aisha as my wife.

Perhaps it was my insistence that taught Aisha against that kind of relationship between family.

But, Aisha likes Ars.

Always, she cuddles him, and he relies on her.

Although I know not their frame of mind, when they finally crossed that line, maybe they convinced themselves it's just one time.

But Ars won't abate after finally tasting the goods.

As a man, I knew this well, that's how it always get started.

Thereafter, Aisha could never refuse Ars' demands.

Since she's also willing, she allows her heart to tug her along.

Until these blips of hedonism became commonplace.

"This is not like you, Aisha..."

Roxy with a sigh.

Then Aisha turned toward Roxy and shouted.

"But what was I supposed to do? I really like him! I can't help it! For Ars, I would give anything! I like Ars, I want to marry him..."

Aisha voice whimpered off.

And she began to cry.

Tightly she hugged Ars between her bosom.

A splitting image of Roxy and I, when we reunited on the Begaritt Continent.

"... No, I know that feeling."

Faced with Aisha's heartfelt words, Roxy could only reply.

Not just Ars, Aisha couldn't control herself either.

How very unlike for the normally dependable Aisha.

Was it simply the human desire for siring offsprings?

Even knowing she shouldn't, she couldn't fight against it.

"Onii-chan."

Aisha wiped away her tears and raised her head, with calm eyes she said.

"I'm very sorry for what happened. But I really do love Ars, and Ars me as well. Even if we have to wait until he reach adulthood, please give us your blessings."

The conviction in her voice quieted the room.

Sylphy turned to ask.

"Rudeus, what do you think?"

Am I supposed to decide?

I suppose I did called for this family meeting.

But is it really appropriate for me to decide?

Looking around, the mood reads, "it's fine now, right?"

It's a fact they shouldn't had done that in secret.

Even if they couldn't go public about it, there're other options.

But the feelings between Ars and Aisha are mutual.

Even if Ars is still young, neither party were forced into this relationship.

So what's wrong with permitting their relationship?

No need to continue scolding them here.

The current mood said.

"..."

If I may be generous, their crimes are really not that severe.

Yet somehow, I feel so repulsed from the bottom of my heart.

"No. I refuse."

"Huh?"

The bewildered voice came from Sylphy.

Eh? Did I say something strange?

No, hold on.

Think this through.

Aisha's okay.

To Ars' demands, even though it felt wrong, she consented.

That was her decision to make.

No matter the right or wrong, it was her decision to make.

Even if it was for a mistake, she has already committed to the decision to protect Ars.

But what about Ars?

Can he make the same commitment?

As a man, if he let his lower half make the decisions, he'll just keep repeating the same mistakes.

When that happens, he would allow a momentary bliss overwhelm any thoughts of risk and consequences.

Even I didn't consider all that entails when I married Sylphy.

Now that I thought about it, back when Sylphy and I got married, I was probably in a rush to lock down the girl I was long after. Nothing proud to say about that.

Perhaps, Ars doesn't truly like Aisha, and the relationship was purely physical.

Basically, he just wants to bed someone.

It's not true love, just spur of the moment. That possibility can't be denied.

Not that it's necessarily bad.

Following one's instincts is bad, I certainly couldn't say that.

Even if it was the spur of the moment, they might end up in a more serious relationship later too.

Just that..

Right now, Ars lacks the capacity to judge the morality of the situation.

He's too naive.

The age difference is less problematic.

When Eris and I first did it, we're roughly his age.

Even if in truth, I was already forty (past life included) back then... But putting that aside for now.

Ars had barely spoke up in this family meeting.

He left Aisha to clean up the mess.

And perhaps even let Aisha take the whole responsibility.

Maybe Aisha intent to do so to begin with.

But Ars certainly hadn't contributed.

Going with the flow, allowing Aisha to play the bad guy to avoid persecution.

Even under Aisha's guidance, that's totally unreasonable.

Nor should I condemn both equally.

Ultimately, Aisha is the older one, she should have shown better judgement, or Ars lacks it. That is another way to look at it.

But this is about them.

He shouldn't be playing bystander in this meeting.

Rather than agreed to let Aisha handle everything, he could have rebut me, and raised his own opinion.

Even if it made him uncomfortable, he should have carefully thought about it.

But he did nothing, that I cannot accept.

"..."

I look towards Ars.

Timid.

After the beating from Eris, he completely shriveled up.

The will to overcome his present predicament, I do not see it at all in him.

Looking at this sorry state, I'm afraid Aisha would spent rest of her life cleaning after Ars' messes.

I could say, "It can't be helped, if the feelings are mutual, but I cannot consent to your marriage until Ars becomes fully independent."

But can I promise that Ars will eventually grow up?

Aisha said this mess only occurred because she did not properly restrain Ars.

It could be just as true that Aisha couldn't control herself.

The two of them have always been together, ever since Ars was born.

Guidance for Ars has been left entirely to her.

I always thought Aisha could do no wrong.

But even Aisha can't teach what she doesn't know.

She has to learn her own lessons first.

Knowing Aisha, she would quickly learn from experience.

But Ars might not.

What could he do?

Right. Then I cannot allow for this.

Aisha and Ars need some time apart.

...

... No.

That's not it.

Even if that may be one reason, that certainly wasn't the most important.

Even I don't understand why I felt so repulsed and disgusted.

"... It might be a bit early, but Ars should attend Asura Royal Academy immediately, and stay there."

At my daze's end, I blurted out those words.

Almost the exact conclusion Paul reached for Sylphy and myself.

"Ugh! You meant to take Ars away from me?"

Aisha eyes bugged out, staring at me in disbelief.

"That's right. Ars still can't stand on his own two legs, relying on you so much. It'll benefit both of you to split up for a while."

"Wait, hold on Onii-chan. It's true what we did today is wrong. I'll be more careful in the future, especially when impeding on Ars' personal growth. Ars as well, I'm sure he understands after the beating from Eris. So--"

"No."

"Why not? Hey, Onii-chan, give me a reason! Give me a reason I can accept!"

"... I hate it."

"That's why I asked, what do you hate about it? Is it because you want Ars to marry a Asura royalty instead?"

"That's not it."

Hey, where did that come from?

Ariel had tossed that idea around before, but I never formally agreed to anything.

"So you're just treating me as property? Even though you never treat me as your property before?"

"No. I never treated you as mine."

"Then why? I can't accept it if you just say no! Give me a reason for giving in? Allow me to give up, please?"

"I don't know! But no is no!"

After what I said, Aisha clenched her teeth.

Staring at me with an unusual anger.

I don't remember her ever so angry with me before.

It's more pain than fear that I felt.

I'm also deeply troubled by my inability to put those feelings to words. But I can't help it.

I don't know why I feel so repulsed.

Even after saying what I said, this gloomy feeling in my chest did not dissipate.

Is it not enough that I find the situation unacceptable?

Do I really need to give it a reason?

Could I even apply a reason to this repulsion I felt?

"..."

Aisha sighed heavily, and for some time stared at me intensely.

After her breaths settled down, she looked suddenly relaxed.

Has she calm down? Suddenly she said.

"You're right. Ars skipped school today, because recently that's all he thinks about. Nothing good would come from staying with me."

Hearing that, I could breath a little easier.

"I'm glad you understand."

"I understand, Onii-chan."

The family meeting can finally come to an end for the day.

Part 4[\[edit\]](#)

Afterwards we called the kids down for dinner, then scattered.

After dinner in the living room, Sylphy, Roxy, Eris and I discussed the situation.

Sylphy seem to have suspected something starting from a few years ago.

Since she often did housework with Aisha, and she noticed something going on between Ars and Aisha.

So did Eris.

She didn't really know what's going on between them. Just that she noticed Ars acting up recently, so she suspected that he found a love interest.

She never expected that she was Aisha.

Roxy never noticed.

She regrets it deeply, and volunteers to go with Ars to Asura Royal Academy.

As a guest instructor, she might able to extend a hand when Ars gets in trouble.

Maybe Ars won't become so dependent if it was Roxy.

I also thought about what's next for them.

After Ars drops out of Magic University, he'll attend Asura Royal Academy.

He will learn to live without Aisha's protection.

Using his own judgement to think, act, and face the consequences.

Maybe with this experience he can escape that dependency.

When he returns, he'll be an adult.

If then he still likes Aisha.

And even in consideration of their future together.

And convinced what happened was not spur of the moment.

Then maybe I might give them my blessing.

Honestly, my disgust has not yet dissipated. Even now I feel a strong urge to hurl.

But this wasn't something for me to decide alone.

Even though they're both family, and I'm also Ars' guardian.

But neither are them my property.

Aisha has long reached the age of maturity, and Ars once reached adulthood would leave my guardianship.

Of course, in consideration of Hitogami's presence, I would like to keep some control over their lives.

But ultimately I shouldn't try to move them like chess pieces.

"Em, I understand. This sounds like what Rudeus would do."

"... If Rudeus made up his mind, that'll be what we do."

"Yes, I understand."

After discussing it with them, all three accepted the decision.

At least from my perspective, they don't seem to feel the same repulsion about the situation.

Since in this world, marriage between close-relatives are a regular occurrence.

Especially among the aristocracy in Asura Kingdom.

Even some Demon Race share this custom.

So there's not much resistance.

Perhaps I'm the odd one out here.

Even if I have become used to the world, ultimately I'm from another world.

My nature isn't something that can be easily changed.

Not to say, I myself had once committed such forbidden act with a relative...

"Those two remind me of how we were once."

"Do they...?"

I shook my head in response to Sylphy.

Aisha and Ars, versus Sylphy and myself, our situations are quite different.

No, that's not what she refers to.

But rather, how we're forced into separation by family.

If that day, Paul did not force us apart, how different would my life been?

Meeting Eris, leaving Sylphy from so long.

If the Metastasis Event never happened, maybe I would never reunite with Sylphy, and married Eris alone.

Perhaps Ars will have an encounter with someone at Asura Royal Academy, like I had with Eris?

At least something like the Metastasis Event probably won't happen again.

Ah, if they give it a little time, maybe things would cool down a bit.

What happens next might turn out for the better or worse.

To me, even if there's some momentary confusion, I believe it'll turn out for the better.

"But to act so one-sided, Rudeus, that's rather out of character for you."

"... Yeah."

"If you have a reason to, they at least deserve an explanation. Getting separated, without just cause, is rather distressing."

Speaking was Sylphy, whose words are heavy with responsibility.

Perhaps she had in an earlier time acknowledged their relationship.

Having readied herself, she didn't share my resistance.

"I know."

She's right.

I was too stubborn.

Even though separating me from Sylphy was ultimately for the best...

Forcing the same upon them, ultimately there's a difference.

Whether it be Aisha, or Ars, they're both living beings.

No matter how willingly they accept my decisions, I have no rights to be so arbitrary.

"..."

What is the right choice here?

What is the best course of action?

With those thoughts still, the discussion ended, and we each headed to our respective beds.

Part 5[\[edit\]](#)

Next Day.

Aisha and Ars disappeared, leaving behind only a single note.

"We will live our own lives."

They eloped.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)

Mushoku Tensei:Redundancy Deleted Chapter 25

 baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php

Chapter 25: The Search[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

Aisha and Ars disappeared.

The household fell into a state of panic.

As soon I read their note, I sprinted out the house.

I have no clue where they might hide, but I got to look for them.

I begin with places they (particularly Aisha) would frequent in the city.

But they couldn't be found.

Not even after a full day of search.

Rude Mercenary Company.

Cliff's house.

Magic University.

Mercenary Corp's various warehouses around the city.

Aisha's favorite cafe, clothing and fabric stores, grocers, and wholesalers.

I even went by Orsted's office to look.

No sight of them anywhere.

Looks like they're no longer in the city.

It wasn't like there were no eyewitnesses.

Early in the morning, they walked past the city gates.

Early in the morning, they left in a horse carriage.

Early in the morning, they borrowed horses from the stable and left.

And other intel like these.

But every intel conflicts with another.

So I don't even know whether they're still inside the city or out.

I'm afraid this has all been part of Aisha's misinformation campaign.

But Aisha could not have spread all these misinformation alone.

Who could have helped?

Who could Aisha command at will?

The answer is obvious.

The Mercenary Corp.

As soon as I reached the conclusion, I headed back to Rude Mercenary Company HQ.

Rinia and Pursena need to be properly interrogated.

"Rude Mercenary Company, Rule Number One!"

"Proper greeting etiquette! Bow hard, head low!"

"Rude Mercenary Company, Rule Number Two!"

"Back straight, yell loud!"

"Rude Mercenary Company, Rule Number Three!"

"Never forget, treat patrons with courtesy!"

On my return, Rinia and Pursena are side by side, standing imposingly, giving instruction to the corp members on the company creeds.

"Never forget ~nya."

"Internalize them nano!"

They alternated the instructions as a tag team.

Like some kind of underground society.

I guess Aisha taught them this.

"Rinia, Pursena, come here for a bit."

"Nyaa? The boss is back. Speaking of which, the financial advisor hasn't ~nya."

"I was just going to ask about that."

"Alright, you're all dismissed. Work hard today!"

After the company members scatter, I followed them to the office.

A nice, steady set of table and chairs, seem awfully expensive.

A statue of an unknown creature.

It looked like a fierce monster.

A magic tool I gave them to keep meat fresh, a fridge.

A room decorated with Rinia, Pursena, and Aisha's favorite things.

Aisha likes cute stuff.

Even though she lacks the talent to make them, she has a good eye for them.

Don't know why would I suddenly recall something like that, but as soon as they sat down I begin the interrogation.

"So you two haven't heard nothing?"

"W-we don't know nothing ~nya?"

"That's right. We got nothing, not even any meat nano."

Rinia whistled crudely, and Pursena's voice dropped at the first mention of meat.

Looks like they do have some idea.

"Sounds like you actually know something. Now fess up."

I said with the grimmest face I can muster.

Instantly terrified, hugging each other, they nod heavily.

"We don't know exactly where they went ~nya!"

"Really don't nano!"

"Just that first thing in the morning, she told us to spread rumours around ~nya!"

"We are not lying, please believe us! Even though we don't have any proof nano..."

No proof, huh?

In other words, no way to figure out which intel is true, and which is false.

At least, not without Aisha's skills in shifting through intel...

At least I finally found a clue.

Aisha was here.

Ultimately, only the Mercenary Corp would answer to her every beck and call.

Instructed them to spread rumours first thing in the morning, then took one of the routes mentioned, or perhaps a different one altogether.

Sounds like one of Aisha's clever schemes.

It won't end just here.

Even if I follow the correct trail, more and more traps would certainly awaits me.

"I believe you. But in return, you two will help me search for Aisha."

Is it a good idea to rely on the Mercenary Corp?

Perhaps they'll just fake the search.

Or Corp itself would leak intel to Aisha.

That possibility certainly exists.

Relying on others and have it backfire, that kind of things happens all the time.

But right now I can leave no stone unturned.

Despite my thoughts, Rinia and Pursena looked rather troubled.

"Well, can I persuade you to give up ~nya? The advisor warned us before to think very carefully about whose side we're on, when push comes to shove."

"If that gets exposed, it'll ruin our reputation! No one will ever respect us again nano."

Looks like Aisha had something on them.

"It's hard to find anyone in the Corp willing to make an enemy out of Aisha ~nya."

"She got something on everyone nano."

So it's not just them.

And all the mercenaries working here owe Aisha favors too.

In other words, Aisha had the entire Corp under wraps.

"... I'm not trying to hurt Aisha. I just want to talk..."

"Even so..."

"And I don't know what we'll be talking about. Don't you think it'll be terribly lonely if we never get to met again?"

My words might not be particularly convincing, but my heart wrenches at the thought that we'll never see Ars and Aisha again.

At least exchange a few words.

That's my true feeling.

But right now if we cross paths, it'll just be a repeat of yesterday...

"I'm counting on you."

Rinia turned toward Pursena as she listen.

Pursena looked troubled still, but she finally nod, her ears drooped.

Rinia said after clearing her throat,

"I understand ~nya. If the advisor really intent on running away, I think there's not much we can do to help, but at least we can give you a hand."

"Are you sure?"

"When I became a slave, I also thought I would never get to see my family again ~nya. I understand how you feel."

Now that she mentioned it, that did happened.

Hadn't her debt been repaid?

I don't really know, since I left Aisha to take care of it.

If there's any debt remaining, maybe I can get to her repaid in merit.

"I owe you one."

With that said, I made my leave.

Part 2[\[edit\]](#)

The Mercenary Corp may be mine, but for searching Aisha it's not the ideal.

In times like this, I need to borrow the power of other organizations.

First are the Magic University and the Magic Guild.

They're the primary power brokers of magic city Sharia.

If Aisha's trying to misdirect me away from the city, they can be of help.

As long as I put up a bulletin on the school boards, I might get intel from the student body.

"Right, I should go check in with Zanoba."

Zanoba Company.

Originally set up as small store front for the sole purpose of selling the Ruijerd picture books.

But due to the solid foundations build by Zanoba and Julie in the early days, its operations have expanded massively in recent years.

Not only did it have major factories in Asura Kingdom, its branch stores have spread all over the world.

Even though Zanoba Company frequently employ Rude Mercenary Company for protection, Aisha doesn't frequent here.

But I do.

So I suspect the chance of Aisha showing up here is low...

Anyways, I should check in with Zanoba, Julie, and Ginger.

Inform the three of them (and one doll) what happened.

Even though I rather not discuss in public a family scandal.

I think at least Zanoba should know.

"That was rather out of character for you, Shishou, to not make your reasons clear."

After hearing my story, Zanoba said.

"It's not like I don't want to explain myself, just that Ars' too young still..."

"Kids grow up fast. It's only a matter of years, a fact who matured early like Shishou is no doubt aware."

"... Yeah."

When Zanoba and I first met, we were not much older than Ars.

Well, there's a difference, if I count my previous life too...

"Perhaps it was because Shishou knew this, that Shishou use age to refute them."

Everyone grows up.

Maybe just not right away.

So long as they reflect on their actions, then work hard to better themselves, they'll grow.

With effort, just like I had.

Even useless trash like me ended up being somewhat respectable.

So I do believe noone is beyond help, personal growth is possible for everyone.

"So what should I have said?"

"Well... first off, you might been too stubborn. If Shishou forcefully separate them without discretion, they have little option but to elope."

"But I thought that if this was to continue, Ars would always stay utterly dependent on Aisha."

"What's so bad about that? Even in those conditions, he can still mature. It might just take a bit more time."

"..."

Indeed, no matter how dependent, no matter how slowly, he would eventually grow up.

Maybe lacking in certain areas.

But even then it's fine, as long as there're those around him willing to come to his aid.

... I certainly am well aware.

So why was I so strongly against it?

"Julie, what do you think?"

Anyways, let's get a female's point-of-view.

She looks downcast and pale.

"What's wrong, Julie?"

"No... well.."

"Julie, do you know something? Don't tell me, you're hiding something from Zanoba-sama?"

Seeing that Julie refused to talk, Ginger who had remained silent until now spoke.

"I saw it."

"Saw what?"

"This morning, I saw Aisha and Ars heading to the basement."

"What!?"

That made me jumped.

A new clue!

There're Teleportation Circles set up in the Zanoba Company basement.

They connect to our secret laboratory in Asura Kingdom Fittoa Region.

"Julie, why didn't you say something earlier?"

"Because Zanoba-sama and Rudeus-sama had been sneaking in and out the basement too..."

"Eh..."

Zanoba looks away.

Maybe he thought we missed our chance to catch Aisha, because of what we have been working on in secret.

But it's just like Aisha, to find a weakness to exploit.

Alternatively, if we hadn't been sneaking about, she won't have took this escape route.

"You didn't notice, Zanoba?"

"I stayed overnight at the store yesterday."

"Oh..."

Likely that Aisha knew of Zanoba's travel plans.

Since there're probably Corp members undercover among Zanoba Company's bodyguards.

"So they did head to Asura Kingdom."

"In that case... we're going to need Ariel's help to find Aisha and Ars."

"Yeah, I'll do that."

First I should visit with Ariel.

"Shishou."

Zanoba stops me as I was about to leave.

"Whether be with your siblings or kids, when you're at odds, make sure you sit down and talk it out. With the younger generation, you have to listen and consider their views. Even if you're right."

"..."

"You might think I'm speaking out of turn as a third party..."

"No, thank you."

It's rare for Zanoba to lecture me.

Maybe he spoke out of regret for his brother Pax. I can appreciate the weight behind his words.

He's right though.

This time around, I never tried to hear what Ars has to say.

Because he never spoke up, I just spoke to Aisha and ignored him.

Never gave him a chance to explain what he wants to do.

Never considered his opinions.

Back then, if I have handled it better, maybe they won't have eloped.

If I could find them, I got to listen to what Ars has to say.

I'll do that.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

Aisha and Ars are presumed in hiding in Asura Kingdom, the largest country in the world.

Of course, it's also the most populated.

Like hiding forest amongst the trees, No one keep track of when new faces show up.
More importantly, because it's a wealthy nation, eaking out a living won't be a problem.

Of course, Asura Kingdom is also a military society.
There're soldiers stationed everywhere.
If given portraits of Ars and Aisha, they should able to find them.
I'll try to get cooperation of the knighthood and army.

I hurriedly rushed toward Ariel's residence.
By the time I arrived, it was already evening.
When I said it was an emergency, I was led directly to Ariel's sleeping quarters.

"That's it..."

Ariel was already in her pajamas, her hair a mess.
She must been asleep already.
All tense when I first arrived, as soon as I finished she could only wearily complaint.

"What you mean, 'that's it'?"
"It's just trouble at home."
"Ah... Right..."
"I was wondering what it could be, when I heard you had an emergency."

Ariel is a busy monarch.
Recently, it became impossible to meet her without prior scheduling.
But I got audience as soon I asked.

Being told an emergency, she must had assumed it was Hitogami-related or Teleportation Circle-related.
So agreed to meet me.

In other words, she only allowed my audience because of the trust vested in me.

But my issue is merely family troubles.

A little inappropriate.

"You're right. My apologies."

"... No need for apologies. An advisor for Rude Mercenary Company disappeared. A capable one. Her going missing will have adverse impact on our future plans."

"It meant a lot for you to say that."

"Anyways, I'll have Sylvester assist with the search. But if she really doesn't want to be found, I'm afraid that won't be much help..."

Rapidly Ariel wrote a note and send it off with a servant.

Sylvester is in charge of security, one of the Seven Knights of Asura.

I have seen him quite often recently, but only exchanged pleasantries. We never really had a chance to talk, so I don't really know much about him.

"I really appreciate it."

In that case, I can just leave the Asura side to them.

I need to figure out what I should do next.

As I was about to make my leave, Ariel spoke out.

"I guess it runs in the family."

"The family?"

"Running away due to family rules, haven't your father done the same?"

Ah, Paul.

Now that she mentions it, Paul became a runaway after a disagreement with his father.

He never returned.

I don't think they ever reconciled either.

Am I following their footsteps?

Aisha, and Ars too, are we never going to see each other again?

"..."

"Be honest with me, why are you so against it?"

"Even if you ask..."

"Just let them get married. Consider it a reward for Aisha, of all her royal years of service."

You hear these kind of story in Asura all the time.

The master rewards a capable servant the hand of his daughter.

Of course, with their mutual consent.

Ariel once said, when the kids grow up, let one marry one of her daughters.

It's not unreasonable.

Truth is, there are many unhappy with me, for taking advantage as my role as Ariel's confidant and acting freely within Asura Kingdom.

Stuck around for all the advantages, just because I was once of assistance to Ariel.

I'm only installing Teleportation Circles within Asura for the associated privileges, some said.

Basically, I'm just a clinger-on who has long stayed beyond Ariel's welcome.

That's why, if one of my children, particularly a son, end up marrying into the royal family, it'll demonstrate to the public the depth of our friendship.

That was Ariel's desire.

"Because it's Aisha and Ars! That can't be right?"

"One is the aunt, and the other the troublesome nephew she helped raised... What's wrong with that relationship? Just because Ars is the firstborn son? You're not nobility. He doesn't have to continue the family legacy, didn't you said that before?"

"It's not that.. Just that, marrying so close within the family is not good?"

"What's wrong with that?"

"..."

What is wrong with that?

Why do I find it so repulsive?

That might be forbidden in the previous world, but this world lacks such prohibition.

For those families that find import in bloodlines, marriage between nephews and aunts are not uncommon.

So why I reject it so?

Is it jealousy?

That I do in fact love Aisha, and had long considered her mine?

No, impossible.

If that's really the case, why would I refuse to make a move on her?

No, it's something else all together.

Maybe it was as Aisha had said, that I consider her property?

Even if I adamantly refuse, in my heart I already thought so, but instead projected that anger on Ars?

Not impossible... but that doesn't feel right.

Because it impedes Ars' growth?

That's true, but that's a secondary issue at best.

What made me so resistant is another all together.

"I don't know."

"Then you should spend some time thinking it through. I'm sure Aisha would really want to hear it."

"Yes."

Just like Ariel said.

Before I talk with Aisha again, I need to get my thoughts in order.

Or it would happen all over again.

Before I get to convey my thoughts and feelings, Aisha will escape again.

"Then I'll take my leave. I'm sorry for intruding you in your sleeping quarters."

"It's fine."

On my way out, I greeted Doga, who's standing guard by the door.

Full of concern he said, "I'll help you find your sister."

Much appreciated.

Part 4[\[edit\]](#)

After returning from Ariel's, I headed to Orsted's Office.

It was already late into night.

Way too late for house calls.

But there're more people I require assistance from.

Even though I wanted to continue my work tomorrow, for now I need to request leave.

"Ah, Rudeus-sama, found Aisha and Ars yet?"

"Not yet. Is Orsted-sama in?"

"At his office."

I greet Alek, nod at the secretary Felia, and head toward the office.

Before I enter Orsted's office, I hesitated a bit.

Is it appropriate for me to request an extended leave?

Orsted never put any guidelines for me on requesting leaves.

Normally, as long as I asked, he'll give me as many days of rest as I like.

On the other hand, leaving work unattended for days due to family matters is certainly inappropriate.

No, this is important to me.

Just do it.

"Rudeus."

Orsted peers over from across the room.

Just a glance, but it felt like he observed me intensely.

Looks like he already knew what I'm here for.

It made me nervous and sweaty.

"I have something to ask."

"About Ars and Aisha?"

"... So you heard?"

"Roxy mentioned it."

Roxy?

She's also on the moves.

Well, even though I went out on my own, Sylphy and Eris must have been busy too.

I need to thank them when I get home.

"Aisha seems to have ran away."

"Right, and Ars too. I'm looking for them."

"If Aisha's serious, she'll be hard to find."

"... So said everyone, but I have to look for them. May I take some time off?"

I said, resisting Orsted's terrifying sight.

Like always, killing intent emanated from Orsted eyes.

"I'll speak to Perugius about this."

"Huh?"

Why Perugius?

For what purpose?

"He spend time monitoring the ground. Maybe he can find them."

"Oh... Of course! I'm counting on you!"

Looks like Orsted will lend a hand too.

"You refuse to listen and deny them, there must be reason?"

"... I couldn't explain it either."

Orsted seemed surprised to hear that.

Well, now I really got to think this though.

Part 5[\[edit\]](#)

After that, I requested assistance from my acquaintances around the world.

Milis, the Great Forest, Kingdom of the Dragon King, Magic Continent, Basherant Dukedom.

I explained the situation to every organization that I have allied.

Cliff lectured me too. While a troubling situation, with three wives already, you really shouldn't be the one to balk. Be more considerate.

Elinalise was shocked that I didn't just approve of them.

Norn was surprised by Aisha's actions. She was angry and said I acted appropriately.

Ruijerd stayed silent after hearing what happened. Only in the end did he said, "I'll help with the search."

Even though they all have various opinions, they all agreed to help with the search.

For the Demon Continent, I'll have to depend on the Atofe Imperial Guards.

But Atofe is missing and Moore has not yet returned.

An headless mob... That's going a bit too far, particularly since it was me that picked a fight with Atofe in the first place, but without direction from above, I can't expect them to act in force.

I wanted to find the missing-person-tracing-machine Kishirika... but she's missing.

I feel like she can track them down instantly if I find her, but that plan failed.

Afterwards, I got everyone I knew in the hunt.

Even Leo is helping, and Ruijerd has left home to join the search.

Perugius was less than enthused, but agreed to search from above.

Orsted and Alek agreed to help in their spare time.

But we came up empty.

Even with the world's most talented trackers and headhunters, no one found a clue.

It's like Aisha and Ars have disappeared from this world, not a trace remained.

Part 6[\[edit\]](#)

It's been a month since then.

Lilia turned bedridden from shock.

Lying in her bed, all she could say was, "I'm so sorry, if I taught her better this wouldn't had happen."

She probably convinced herself that she carried responsibility that Aisha and Ars would elope.

Even though her health has improved, she remained despondent, troubled.

Once I overheard her weeping in her room, but when I check in on her, Zenith was patting her head.

Zenith slapped me once.

When I had Lara translate for me, she said, "She's just sad."

Seems like she approves of Ars and Aisha getting married.

Even though I was sure she would be against it...

Perhaps in Zenith's mind, the vision she saw was quite wonderful.

Or perhaps she's just happy for them.

Sylphy has been depressed, "if only I left them with another option..." She also picked up Aisha and Lilia's share of housework.

She couldn't help with the search, but she took over all the housework like laundry, breakfast, etc.

It's all thanks to her that we managed some semblance of normalcy in a family crisis like this.

Eris hadn't said much.

She just pouts as she clenches the wooden sword that Ars has left behind.

As if with her mind made up, she started practicing her sword swing.

Roxy said "I'll go look for them" and began packing. I had to rush to stop her.

I felt like if Roxy disappears too at this moment, this family would just completely fall apart.

Even so, she is still helping with the search via her own connections.

The kids are all nervous.

Lara looks unfazed, but even her mischiefs have lessened in recent days.

Sieg hasn't talked much, even though he's usually quite the talker, but he doesn't speak up at home anymore.

Lily used to prefer indoors, but now occasionally she would go to the gate, climb up Beat, and look out the main road.

Chris would say, "What happened to Ars-nii and Aisha-nee? I want to see them again..." and start crying.

Lucy is worried about them.

She already graduated from Magic University, and is currently attending Asura Royal Academy.

She's boarding there.

Even though she's plenty busy with her own stuff, she made sure to reach out to her old Magic University classmates for help.

As time pass, I returned to work.
Not that I gave up on the search.
Aisha and Ars are both very important to us.
But there're stuff that I can't left unattended.

As time spent searching decline, time spent thinking increased.
When eating, while bathing, before sleep, after waking up.
I was always thinking.

Why did I reject them with no explanation?
No matter what, it wasn't right for me to disregard their opinions.
Disregard their opinions, refused to explain myself. That was certainly wrong.
I shouldn't have done that, I should have knew better.

But the answer never came. A month pass, then another.
Aisha and Ars are nowhere to be found.

Part 7[\[edit\]](#)

Half a year after they disappeared.
I met up with Nanahoshi.

It was the first time we met after they disappeared.
So that was what we talked about.
When I brought up Aisha and Ars, she just listened in silence.
She didn't raise any concerned, simply listened.

That day, we also talked about other stuff.
Of the past life.

The topic meandered aimlessly.

About the takoyaki shop near Nanahoshi's home.

A takoyaki shop that was always there, one that I visited many times since I was young.

How we could really use some takoyaki and rice right now.

Stuff like that.

Suddenly, while reminiscing, I remembered.

Something that happened over thirty years ago.

Something I should have never forgot.

It was before I was born... before my life in this world has begun.

Or perhaps, the start of it all.

It was my previous life.

The day I passed away.

I had brothers and sisters.

Brother was married already.

And had kids.

Two of them.

Both girls.

They look different from Norn and Aisha, they're Japanese after all, but they shared in their innocence.

Brother's house and my house (that is, our parents) are close by, so they'll stay over often.

Along with his wife and kids.

I took advantage of that.

Setup a hidden camera in the bath for my niece.

In other words, I took voyeur shots.

Not that I'm particularly interested in my niece.

Just that it was convenient, that was the only reason I did it.

Then that day arrived.

The day my parents passed away.

That day I also setup my camera.

And brother found out.

That day, I felt brother was still willing to have a talk with me.

At least, I thought so.

If it were my sisters or younger brother, they would certainly beat me up right away.

But brother was different.

He might be ready to give up, but he was still willing to give me one last chance.

Our parents are gone, I can't protect you anymore.

It's finally time for you to step out on your own.

If there's something I can help with, just ask.

In that moment, I probably would feel a little motivated myself, to give life another shot.

Because the fact is, he'll help however he can.

Brother was that kind of man.

Since after so long, he never gave up on me.

Until he saw that photo.

Then my brother snapped.

Now that I thought about it, that was the first time anyone ever beat me.

Not the sister that long gave up on me, nor the younger brother who threatened me with a stick.

Seeing that photo, he paused for five seconds, then shouting nonsense as he beated me.

Only natural.

The me now could understand.

I would have done the same.

In that situation, if I was in my brother's shoes, I would have beat Aisha without question.

In other words, that was what happened.

The me that day, was my brother back then.

But not only Aisha was a girl, compared to me in my past life she was ever more diligently working, living, and responsible.

So I didn't beat her.

But I couldn't help but feel so repulsed by what happened between Aisha and Ars, so I forcibly split them apart.

I was emotional.

Because of guilt toward brother, I impulsively acted that way.

Because my instinct convinced myself the same mistakes are being repeated.

That must be why I rejected them.

But Aisha's circumstance is different.

Superficially similar, but completely different.

The feelings between Aisha and Ars are mutual.

I was just taking voyeur shots.

Given time, they would definitely form a healthy relationship.

Even though Ars is indeed a little young, and he was probably acting on instincts.

But it had been ten years.

For over a decade, Aisha was with Ars.

Ten years are a long, long time.

Impeding Ars' personal growth was a mere excuse.

It was purely my own overreaction.

So I acted just like brother.

That day, brother cut me off.

After I died, our relationship were forever severed.

But even if I had lived and wished to apologize, what could be done?

Even if our relationship was over, I could have at least apologize.

He won't forgive me, and we'll never be the same.

But there must be something I could have done.

Even though I don't know what...

All in all, at least I now know the source of my repulsion.

That day carved in my heart a scar that never healed.

So I always forbade myself from making another move on family.

Even if my scar and repulsion can't compare to brother's.

If I met Aisha again, I need to apologize.

Apologize for wanting to force them them apart without reason.

If I don't, there's no room for discussion.

Nothing would change.

In that family meeting, Aisha had already apologized to me.

Then she asked me for a reason she could accept.

So now it's my turn.

Apologize, and explain to her what happened in my past life.

After that, I need to discuss with them about their future.

Next time, I got to communicate better.

Even I don't know how it'll turn out, but I don't want to force them to agree again.

That was what I decided on.

Part 8[\[edit\]](#)

The search for them continues, since the day Aisha left that note, for over a year.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)

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Chapter 26: Ars[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

To Ars Rudeus, Aisha is an special existence.

She has been by his side ever since he could remember, no matter where and when always watching over him.

Her existence is akin to a fourth mother.

His three mothers each taught Ars various things.

Sylphy taught knowledge and how to make friends.

Roxy taught wisdom and tricks for studying.

Eris taught sword skills and to protect those important to him.

Aisha also taught him many things.

But more than the mothers, she helped him understood things he couldn't otherwise.

So she's unlike the mothers.

So, perhaps her existence is more akin to an older sister?

Ars has two older sisters.

Lucy is the respectable sister.

Diligently follow the mothers' teachings, attend class, always acting high and mighty, and lecturing Ars on studying and exercise.

Lara is the lazy sister.

Ignoring mothers' lectures, skipping classes, but always treating Ars as an equal and a friend, or involving him with her various mischiefs. Quite a few times, Ars got in trouble after following her advices.

Aisha also, sometimes lecturing him, other times offering suggestions.

But more than the sisters, her lectures and advices helped him better understood himself.

Different from the self-improvement or fun provided by his older sisters.

So compared to Lucy and Lara, she's also different.

Not a mother nor an sister, an existence he couldn't quite grasp.

That is Aisha.

Anything he asked for, Aisha would always comply.

No matter how capricious the request, she would always say, what am I to do with you, but always made it happen.

Sometimes she would be strict with him, but never did she lecture Ars without cause.

Whenever Ars was upset, she would always gently hug him.

And suggested how he can do better next time.

No matter how upset Ars gotten, as long as his face was buried in Aisha's ample bosoms, all his worries would simply fade away.

When he was still small, there was a time when he thought her annoying.

But Aisha was always right.

When feeling rebellious, and he done opposite of what Aisha said, it always ended in disaster.

But at the end, Aisha would arrive and say, "See, get it now?"

Ars could only grumble and nod.

When Ars turned ten, he thought he'll always be protected by Aisha, living under her guidance.

Maybe he was brainwashed.

Aisha's guidance robbed Ars of his critical thinking, since "everything will turn out alright, as long as he listen to Aisha" had long been planted in him.

But to Ars back then, he never thought that was a terrible thing.

When Ars had his tenth, family members each gave him a present.

Among them was a sword.

A real sword.

Eris the red mama told Ars, "use this to protect those important to you."

In that moment, only Aisha's face appeared in his mind.

And instinctively he turned towards Aisha.

As if she felt him, she looked back as well and their sights crossed. She smiled.

Don't know why, but he felt embarrassed, and turned away.

Perhaps it was at that moment Ars realized his feelings for Aisha.

Of course, he didn't speak it.

Because he was too embarrassed.

Or perhaps it was because Lara the older sister was still childish, or Clive of the same age had yet to act on his feelings towards Lucy.

He was too young for romance.

Perhaps that was what he thought.

Then one day, something happened that made him think otherwise.

It happened in the bath.

Greyray House has a special rule of always using the bath in pairs.

Usually Ars would take his bath with Aisha.

But quite a few times that month, they didn't.

Instead, it was with one of his three moms, or with one of his siblings.

But that day, it was a rare occasion to bath with his father.

Father was a distant existence to Ars.

Not only was he rarely home, he was also one that command respect from everybody.

Not just the mothers, but all the adults as well.

Like Dragon God Orsted, North God Alek the Third, also the school principal and vice-principal.

All the incredible people in Ars' eyes were full of praise for Rudeus.

And also, no matter whatever Ars did wrong, his father never yelled at him.

Only smiled and said, "be more careful next time."

Once, while loitering in father's study, he accidentally tipped over a particular figurine, smashing it.

It was an important figure that father's friend Zanoba gave him.

Of course, Ars thought he would get lectured.

And in truth, white mama admonished him, red mama spanked him, and blue mama lectured him sternly.

So of course father would have yelled as well.

With that thought, he apologized to father.

But father wasn't upset.

"You're very honest. That's impressive. Next time, please be more careful." With that said, he patted Ars on the head.

What a relief!

Lucy believed father's attitude meant he had "no expectations for us."

So close, yet so distant, father had already casted us aside, having zero expectations for useless children, she said.

When he heard that, Ars thought, why, of course. His heart sank.

Even though Lucy used winning father's approval as motivation for working hard, Ars couldn't do the same.

But even a father like him felt relaxed in the bath.

With head leaning against the edge of the bath, lying flat with his limbs spread, he said "Oh~, I'm healed."

Rare seeing father like this.

Of course, at home he's often laxed. But in Ars' eyes, he remained so capable.

Ars studied his father's behavior carefully that day.

Sensing the attention, perhaps feeling a little awkward, he sat back up and met Ars in the eyes, whom was sitting across the bath.

"Em, Ars, can you wash your hair on your own yet?"

"... Yes, sir. And rest of me too. Isn't that expected?"

In front of father, he couldn't help but speak politely.

"Ah, of course. You're ten already. You sure grew up fast."

Father said with a laugh.

"Sword skills is intermediate, but should reach advanced soon. Still beginner in magic, but I'm capable in chantless magic."

"I see. Exercise and studies are important, but don't overdo it. It'll all be pointless if you wreck your body in the process."

Hearing him, Ars couldn't help but think.

Father really held no expectations for us.

When father was his age, he already was Saint Level in Water Magic, and intermediate in Swords.

We're lagging way behind in comparison.

Zero expectations.

That thought made Ars depressed.

"So, em. You're ten now."

"Yeah, I am?"

"It's that pestering Ariel. Few days ago, I was visiting Asura Kingdom, and Ariel-sama mentioned a marriage proposal of her daughter and you."

"Marriage...?"

"Yeah. For nobles of Asura Kingdom, around ten is usually when that topic crops up."

Father stared straight at Ars, murmuring "Em" and nodded.

"Those conversations will definitely happen more frequently now."

"Eh, really?"

"It's a good thing you took after Eris. You'll definitely have many suitors."

When he heard that, he thought reflectively.

How annoying.

"But Ars, I must warn you. Don't fool around with girls just because you're popular. If in the process, you made them cry, papa will get mad at you."

"... Yes."

He can't imagine father angry.

But at that point Ars realized.

The idea of Marriage was never that far away from him.

So whom he would rather have that kind of relationship with...

In that moment, as naturally as it may, Aisha's face floated in his mind.

Less than a year later, he confessed to Aisha.

Of course, during that moment, he didn't understand.

Always under Aisha's protection, Ars couldn't understand.

The Ars who thought "everything will turn out alright, as long as he listen to Aisha" wouldn't understand what Eris meant by "protect those important to him."

What he didn't understand was, it was he who was suppose to be protecting Aisha.

Part 2[[edit](#)]

He must protect Aisha.

The first time that dawned on him was the family meeting, when Eris got angry.

Until then, to Ars, Aisha was a perfect existence.

Capable of accomplishing everything to perfection.

Failures were rare, but even then she could manage a complete recovery.

An existence that didn't need his help, didn't need his protection.

That was the Aisha in his heart.

But in that family meeting, Aisha fell into a predicament.

Yet he didn't understand.

And he still didn't, not until Eris pummeled him and yelled, "Even though I taught you to protect" before it finally dawned on him.

How cornered was Aisha.

Only then he realized.

Aisha was human.

Even though she's wise beyond words, but she's not perfect, and sometimes she makes mistakes.

No matter how few and far between.

Certainly far less than Ars.

But she still makes mistakes.

Then he understood what it meant to protect Aisha.

When Aisha gets cornered, stand before her, and give his all to keep danger at bay.

Let his body be her shield, even exchange his life for hers if necessary.

That's what it meant to protect Aisha.

Just like Aisha has always done for Ars.

Ars finally understood.

Until now, he was always the one being protect.

Thus he decided.

From then on, he'll always protect Aisha.

It was that moment when he woke up from his brainwashing.

Yet Ars was but a child.

Lacking in both wisdom and experience.

If only Ars was smarter, or a few years older.

After the family meeting, when Aisha said to him, "Let's go and live our own lives, let's elope!" then he may have resisted.

Aisha-nee, allow me protect you this time around. I will definitely explain myself properly, so let's give talking with father another try.

Or perhaps, until I become an adult, please wait for me. I'll definitely marry you then.

Something like that.

But Ars, at that moment, only remembered three lessons.

One was what Eris taught him,

"Protect those important to you."

And what Aisha taught him,

"If you want to do something, just do it. When in trouble, jump into the action."

And finally the ending of an old fairy tale.

"Separate those mutually in love would only end in disaster."

From these three lessons, Ars concluded:

(If it's what Aisha wants, let her. When Aisha makes a mistake and fallen on hard times, then it's my turn to help and protect her.)

As expected of Eris' child, she would have reached the same conclusion.

In any case, he nodded in agreement with the idea to elope.

After that, following Aisha's instructions, he nervously absconded with her.

With Aisha following close behind, his sword was always readied.

When they encountered magical beasts or robbers on the road, he took the initiative and fought.

Without realizing it, his legs no longer tremored.

The sword skills he was trained in since birth ended up useful against magical beasts and robbers alike.

In the morning, he did the work Aisha found for him.

Even though Ars was still young, he was capable in both magic and sword play, so there're plenty of jobs to be had.

Tapping into everything he knew to do the job.

Aisha purposely looked for those type of work for him.

Ars also trained his sword and magic skills during work.

Exercise, practice swings, and chantless magic during break time.

Repetition, practice, and the real deal, the most effective way for Ars to gain experience.

Perhaps Aisha thought of that too.

They also had wild nights together.

It was only natural, since they both wanted so.

Days lacking mothers and father certainly made him anxious.

But he doesn't regret it.

Rather, he felt fulfillment for doing what he wanted.

And anyways, Aisha's always smiling.

Then one day, even that last bit of anxiety dissipated.

It was half year since they eloped. On one particular day, he no longer felt anxious.

In its stead, he gained resolution.

But Aisha's smiles were replaced by anxiety and unease in turn.

When Onii-chan finds them, what he would do, it was probably that.

Ars must have come to an realization.

That he must do the protecting.

Not that he was particularly confident.

After half a year, although he gained quite a bit of confidence, he wasn't particularly strong.

Not against father, red mama, white mama, or even blue mama did he have a shot of winning.

Despite that, when father and mothers come to separate us, or try to harm Aisha, he'll fight.

He won't let them touch Aisha.

Even if it kills him, he'll protect Aisha.

Naturally it came to that.

Because that was what father had done, and what red mama taught him to do.

Those confusing lessons finally made sense to him.

Ars made up his mind. Then, the moment came.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

---Rudeus' Point of View---

Aisha and Ars were sighted in Milis Continent.

At a remote corner of Holy Kingdom of Milis, in a small village by some river.

Aisha and Ars apparently live in a cottage there.

The eyewitness account came from Roxy.

Or more specifically, from an adventurer.

An adventurer working in Milis, by request visited this village, and discovered Aisha and Ars.

Because of the request made to the adventurer's guild, for finding Aisha and Ars, that intel was turned over to Rude Mercenary Company.

When Rude Mercenary Company received the intel, it was duly suppressed as prearranged by Aisha.

But it didn't end there.

Even though I prevent Roxy from joining the search.

In secret, she nevertheless used the Teleportation Circles to collect intel from all over world.

Because of their privacy policy, Adventurer's Guild wouldn't provide intel gathered for requestors to outside parties.

But Roxy had an old acquaintance working at the Milis Adventurer's Guild.

That was how Roxy learned of their whereabouts, and the fact that the Mercenaries suppressed that intel.

Roxy hurried to the village as soon as she learned of it.

And spotted from afar Aisha and Ars.

She avoided contact and hurried back home to deliver the news (I was worried sick since Roxy had disappeared for days)...

That's what happened.

After that I reached the village.

Bringing Sylphy and Roxy with me, and Eris as well.

Lilia wanted to come, but I decided to leave her home.

Let me talk to Aisha first.

A peaceful village, lacking in every amenities.

I heard it's a village built by the forester guild.

Located at the midpoint for lumber transport route, between the lumbers upriver and the merchants in the city, an industry-based village.

Husbandry and farming are only kept for subsistence.

Since it's by a forest, damages by magic beast are frequent occurrences, so requests to the adventurer's guild are made regularly.

And because the village would naturally disappear once the lumber supply upstream become exhausted, it was never given a name.

So it was never recorded on maps.

Outside of the locals, most people would never knew this village ever existed.

The two of them lived in a corner of that village.

A remote cottage, probably built by hand.

By their home is a small farm plot and chicken coup.

And a little garden.

I stood before the house.

Wanting to rush right in to talk with Aisha.

But I didn't.

Because a small body was standing guard.

Ars.

Wielding a real sword, staring daggers at me.

"..."

Killing intent shone in his eyes.

Never had I received that from my own blood.

For a moment, I thought of running home and cry.

Of course, I didn't...

"Ars."

"... Father."

Been a while, Ars, look how much you have grown.

Or is it just the outfit?

Equipped with adventurer-style leather jacket and sword, he look buff overall.

And there's a ferocity about him that he never had at home.

I guess we should talk.

"Ars... Do you think this is appropriate?"

"What is?"

"Your relationship with Aisha, running away, and this right here... you don't regret any of it?"

"Yes. I'm aware."

Ars nodded resolutely.

Without a bit of hesitation.

Tougher than my imagination.

He hadn't been merely clinging tightly onto Aisha without thoughts.

That kind of feeling.

"I do wish you could have shown the same attitude that day."

"Yes. I should have."

"If you did, I would have listened to what you had to say."

"That day, I wouldn't know what to say."

He immediately replied.

So what changed over the past year?

"You plan to spend the rest of your life with Aisha?"

"That's the plan. I love Aisha. Always causing her trouble, always needing her help and guidance. Of course, I'm

grateful to father and the mothers, but I think I owe Aisha even more. If Aisha says she wish to spend the rest of our lives together, I'll certainly will spend the rest of my life protecting her."

No hesitation.

A lifetime wholly revolving around Aisha, a little worrying...

But, this attitude, and these words, if he had said it on that day, things would end up differently, probably.

Well, my refusal was of a different reason, so maybe they would eloped anyways...

But at least Eris probably won't had to beat Ars up.

No, maybe it was the experience from this past year, that helped him realized the capacity for those words.

Maybe it was for the best that he struggled with Aisha in an harsh environment like this.

Yet he's still so young.

It felt like he's putting into words before learning of the ways of the world.

Like a little kid confounded by reality, so instead threw a tantrum, because he overestimated his abilities.

"You think you can do that?"

"I can."

"I don't see it."

Speaking earnestly, Eris frown and looked at me.

"I'm different from a year ago."

He said, stubbornly standing over his doorstep, refusing to let us pass, refusing to let us take Aisha away.

Well, now that?

First, I should test whether he's really capable of what he says.

"... Then let me test whether you're lying or not."

Eris said what I was thinking, then stepped up before me.

Looked like she's not here to talk it out.

I nodded. She unsheathed the sword by her waist and pointed it at Ars.

The killing intent emanating from her was the real deal.

I can see Ars' face turning pale in an instant.

Not just his face. His legs, his entire body are quivering.

Yet despite so pale and spooked, he did not run.

"You can protect her?"

Eris only asked.

"I'll protect Aisha-nee."

Ars immediately answered.

"...!"

Eris made her move in the next instance.

With terrifying speed she striked at Ars.

A speed and timing beyond my reaction time.

YetArs reacted in time.

He deflected Eris' blade, but fell to the ground in doing so.

Even though he fell, Ars striked back at Eris' legs.

Blood spattered from Eris' foot.

But that alone won't stop Eris.

Stepping off her damaged foot, she struck down at Ars, still lying on the ground and unbalanced.

From below Eris, the sound of meat being cleaved can be heard.

Not the clang off the back edge.

Blood sprayed. The soil around Eris' feet colored red.

Some even splattered onto my face.

An unforgiving sound, an unforgiving sight.

I'm going to lose Ars for good.

That thought made me tremble in silence.

But my worst fear did not pass.

Because in the next moment a shadow leaped between Eris' legs.

Ars.

Even with blood gushing out off his shoulders, he bared his teeth at Eris, showing unyielding fighting spirit.

"Hiiyah!"

Once again, Eris attacked.

Completely ignoring the bleeding from her foot.

"Hiiyah!"

Ars also charged.

The wound on his shoulder was deep, staining his cloth red, but he did not complain of the pain.

Eris' strike was stronger, faster.

Every time Ars deflected a strike, it seemingly shook his entire body and caused him to stagger.

At times he was sent flying, rolling, slightly injured, then kicked, or beat with the hilt. Soon enough he's covered with bruises.

But he refused to yield.

Keeping a distance, he would force himself back up, take his stance, then charge at Eris again.

Over and over again.

With such overwhelming power before him, Ars was covered in bruises.

Except for the initial strike at Eris' foot, none of his remaining attacks ever connected.

Ars' utterly outmatched.

Yet Ars wasn't beaten.

Eris was no naive swordswoman.

Not taking Ars down, was it because he's her own son?

Holding back to avoid killing him?

Perhaps a little of both.

But more than that.

Not a spot on Ars that was not covered in injury.

He should have realized now, that Eris cannot be beaten.

But Ars refused to yield.

Refused to admit defeat.

I understand.

There's no other choice.

"... Ugh!"

The sound of metal clashing, and Ars' sword flew off his hand.

The sword flung across the sky and landed by my feet.

It surprised me.

Not just the sword, Ars' hand was still attached.

That hand, severed from his body, still clenched the sword tightly.

In that moment I wished to put a stop to this battle.

But even from afar, one can tell Ars would refuse to yield.

Even without a hand, he still crouched low, posing to fight with Eris once more.

Seeing this, Eris tosses away her sword.

And strikes at Ars with bare fists.

"UGGGGHHHH!"

Ars rushed at Eris, shouting.

With no other option, he could only rush with all his strength.

In contrast, Eris looked calm.

A strike at the head and he fell to the ground. She jumped on top.

With her kneecaps to pressed down his hands, straddling him.

The next scene was one I was long familiar with.

"ORA ORA ORA ORA!"

With no ability to resist, Ars did nothing but take the beating. Refusing to yield, only screaming.

Eris continued the beating.

Raining down punches.

Beating him like a drum.

But eventually even those strikes began to lose their strength.

She must have grew weary as well.

Wildly mauling her own son.

"... Ugh."

Suddenly Eris' face exploded, flinging her back.

Eris juked and stood back up. Her hair burnt. Her face charred.

Ars stood up too.

Face swollen, missing a hand, his legs wobbly, yet he stood.

He picked up Eris' sword lying by him and attempted to pose, but with his strength leaving him, the sword fell to the ground.

So he dragged the sword, falling and kneeling on several occasions, but always dragging his body back up.

But not towards Eris.

Running away?

No.

Where he headed, was home.

He moved to the doorstep. On his knees, he desperately tried to lift up the sword. But without any remaining strength, the sword only pointed the ground.

No longer in any condition to fight.

But the eyes under his hair still beamed, beaming at Eris and I.

"..."

That's enough.

Those words I wanted to say, but I swallowed them back down.

Eris said she'll handle this.

So she'll handle this.

I was to witness it till the end.

"What do you mean by this?"

Eris relaxed from her stance, crossed her arms and peered down.

Fill with remorse, Ars lifted his head at Eris and said.

"Even if it kills me... I won't let you pass..!"

"Really... As expected of Rudeus' son."

Suddenly, Eris raised her head and yelled.

"But that isn't protecting with everything you got!"

"... I know."

"Right now you, even if you have the desire, is incapable of protecting her!"

"... I know!"

"Then..."

Eris was unsatisfied.

But that face couldn't fool me.

Her face frowned, arms crossed, standing upright.

But she's certainly troubled.

Unable to properly convey what she wished to say, didn't know what she should say.

While I tried to make up my mind, Roxy stepped up.

She walked towards Ars, until she reached his line of sight, and said.

"You're saying that you're willing to give up your life to protect Aisha?"

"Yeah... That's right!"

"Challenge an opponent you have no hope of defeating, then die. Did you ever consider the feelings of Aisha you left behind?"

".... But what can I do?"

"Rudeus would have begged."

What she said so bluntly caused me to freeze up.

"He once challenged the Dragon God, Orsted-sama, losing both his magic armor and cannon in the process. On the edge of defeat, he begged for protection of his family on his hands and knees. That's what he done before Orsted-sama."

"... T-that's a lie. That's impossible? Father and Orsted-sama were always so close."

"It wasn't always that way."

Ars looked toward me.

Looking back, I nodded.

It's kind of embarrassing that my son knew of my past begging.

But that did indeed happened.

"And what would you do? Just go ahead and die in battle against Eris? And after your death? You're just going to ignore what happens to Aisha thereafter?"

"..."

She may been lecturing, but there's a kindness in her voice.

Ars looked at Roxy, at me, then Eris...

The sword fell off Ars' hand.

It fell on his thighs, then once more on the ground, clattering.

And in that moment tears flooded out of Ars' eyes, pouring.

Are those tears for recognizing how powerless he was?

Or something else?

And finally, Ars collapsed.

His body leaned forward, and Roxy caught him.

Fallen unconscious from exhaustion, probably.

Blood pooling around his feet.

Seeing my own son collapsed, atop a pool of his own blood, face swollen, yet nary a worry in my mind.

Rather, I want to praise him.

Indeed, Ars is immature.

And still weak.

His critical thinking remains naive.

Even if a battle to the death is not a particularly outlandish idea.

Indeed, he has grown up quite a bit in the past year, but he still has much to learn.

On the other hand, there're only a handful of people who can best Eris in battle.

Without his dominant hand, and after a straddled beating by Eris, fewer would have the will to continue to fight.

How far Ars was willing to go, I can appreciate that.

The resolution Ars held, was the same I had, when I challenged Orsted.

Until the end, even to death, to protect Aisha.

Perhaps his choices and actions were misguided.

But his heart was in the right place, like I was.

Certain emotions gush from within me on that thought.

This moment, I want to go hug and praise Ars.

Praise him for good fight.

Such an odd feeling.

Shouldn't I be scolding him right now, for eloping, for causing so much trouble for the family...

But Ars is no longer a child.

He might not yet stand on his two feet, but he has matured.

How happy that thought made me.

I guess I'm a little naive too.

"... Sylphy, can I leave this to you?"

"You don't have anything to say to Ars?"

Ars, that's enough.

I heard your thoughts.

I saw your resolution.

Your strength and determination were for all to see.

And Roxy had already said what I wanted to say.

I have no objections.

Even though I may have found Aisha's and Ars' relationship instinctively repulsive, I couldn't blame Ars for that.

There're many things I need to discuss with him, but that can wait.

The reason I came, wasn't just to evaluate Ars' growth.

It was also to talk with Aisha.

"First I need to speak with Aisha. Just the two of us."

"... Yes. I understand. Leave it to me."

Sylphy took from me a King Ranked Healing Scroll, retrieved Ars' severed hand, and headed toward the others.

I looked at Eris, and she turned back.

Hurry and go, her eyes read, tipping her head toward the house.

Roxy also looked at me and nod.

After nodding back, I turned toward the house and went.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)

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Chapter 27: Aisha[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

Aisha Greyrat was a genius at birth.

From the earliest days she could understand words.

Not just in language, but she quickly picked up everything her mother taught her.

She was also quick to understand why a subject might be useful.

Cleaning, laundry, language, math, history, geography, science.

She soaked up knowledge like a sponge.

She continued to excel even after the Teleportation Disaster.

Lilia and Aisha were transported to Shirone Kingdom.

Locked up by Pax Shirone for the crime of being acquainted with Roxy Migurdia and made into a maid.

Even though Aisha was still so young, Pax didn't concern himself and made her a maid.

But it worked out for her.

The maids of Shirino Kingdom pitied Lilia and young Aisha for how Pax persecuted them.

So they were more than generous to them, even though they popped out of nowhere.

Especially Aisha, they pitied her circumstance and went of of their ways to teach her all kind of things.

Aisha learned from them a variety of things.

Mostly on how to deal with people.

How to be polite.

How to thank people, how to make requests, how to refuse demands, how to welcome visitors, how to entertain guests.

The brilliant Aisha quickly appreciated how important these people skills were in life.

From Aisha's perspective, the world was simple.

She only needed to be taught once, and what wasn't she could easily copy and learn on her own.

Soon she realized everyone around her are far less capable.

Even though the maids taught her many things, they don't think very hard. Knowledge without intelligence.

Even though she had few chances to meet peers of her age, as far as she could tell, they're all lacking in both knowledge and intelligence.

Basically, Aisha thought everyone as a bunch of idiots.

As such, she was very pessimistic about her future.

Understanding her imprisonment by Pax, she saw a future clouded in darkness.

The alternative of serving her brother as her mother told, the one she no longer recognized and only memory of was that his fetish for girls' panties, was not much better.

But Pax was even more terrible than brother, that she could tell from Lilia's and the maids' actions.

She knew her fate if she had stuck around.

That's why, she acted to escape this predicament.

Even though there's little could be done using her little body.

If she didn't act soon, there might be no escape.

It was then she encountered Rudeus Greyrat, her older brother.

From then on, Rudeus became an special existence for Aisha.

The greatest person in Aisha's eyes.

Because Rudeus was always ahead of everyone.

Doing the impossible for average folks.

Even better than the self-professed genius Aisha would ever be capable of.

Top class magic, gentle demeanor, gaining great allies.

Yet he never shown conceit, always looking at things with a even keel.

Unlike her original assumptions, he's a respectable person.

With a brother like that, serving him won't be all bad.

Even the panties fetish was only minor details.

She thought.

Maybe it's the Suspension Bridge Effect.

Since Aisha was in midst of her first crisis.

Even though she learned many things from the maids, many others were still foreign to Aisha. Wandering in a strange city, caught by a man twice her size, and even seeing her life-saving letter tore to threads.

Princess rescued in that moment, of course she would like him.

It didn't actually matter to Aisha whether she would worked as a maid.

Aisha thought she would serve Rudeus, and like mother did, eventually gives birth to a son.

That wasn't ignorance.

Everyone have their own walks of life.

She's well aware of that fact, just that given her birth and upbringing, she just assumed that she would follow her mother's footsteps.

Of course, if Aisha wanted to do something else, Aisha could certainly developed in that direction.

But Aisha didn't have any particular dreams, nothing she couldn't have lived without.

What she desired, can be fulfilled with a small salary, which her brother were more than ample in providing.

Working under such a respectable person, getting paid for it, and given plenty of freedom. Isn't that enough, she thought?

Since Aisha was capable of making it a reality, she easily accomplished it.

Then on, Aisha lived a comfortable life.

Housework, gardening, decorating.

And a particular knack for nurturing plants.

Soil, seeds, sunlight, and water.

The perfect combination to grow the ideal plant.

Even when the combinations are exactly the same, the flowers they produce will be different.

Nurturing plants no one have ever seen before was a challenge. But there always exists a reason for crop failures. There is always a better way to nurture a plant. Taking up that challenge gave Aisha plenty of fulfillment.

But most importantly, plants never complained.

Because Aisha hated unreasonable people that complained.

They just lagged behind.

That's right, from her youngest days, Aisha were already looking down at those less capable than her.

She liked competent people.

She hated incompetent people.

Only exception she made are for those, although less capable, still managed to accomplish something.

among those she acknowledge as her betters, the best was naturally Rudeus, and of course she liked him the best.

And of course, this "like" was different from love, a slightly twisted sort of feeling.

What twisted Aisha the most though, was being Lilia's child.

No matter how great Aisha was or what she accomplished, Lilia would never praise her. Always putting Norn first, putting Rudeus first.

This messed with Aisha's mind.

Because she was always discriminated against, she was particularly sensitive to personal failure.

Constantly anxious that any failure would left her discarded or destroy her world view.

Because of this, she learned to quickly remediate every failure, or at least place the blame on someone else.

Of course, her feelings as Rudeus' little sister or desire to serve as the family maid were not faked.

She also felt joy, loneliness, and sometimes anger or tears.

It's just that her judgemental nature was always there.

She knew how to find capable people.

But she didn't understand what "love" meant.

She didn't understand what it meant to love someone.

She didn't understand what love was.

Part 2[\[edit\]](#)

Two turning points happened to that Aisha.

First was the birth of Ars Greyrat.

By then, Aisha already had plenty of experience with labor, having helped deliver Lucy and Lara.

The moment when life begins truly touches Aisha deeply.

Wow, how incredible!

Only on this particular point, but it truly touched her.

But Ars' birth was different.

Rudeus was not present then.

Even though that was Eris' first child, but she had plenty of strength, and Lilia and Aisha was assisting their third delivery.

If Rudeus there, Eris might have wasted her strength over frivolous things, so it probably would have been counterproductive.

But because of this, the first person who to hold Ars, was Aisha.

When she held him, it felt different from Lucy or Lara.

When Ars first cried out, an emotion she never felt before blossomed in her chest.

An indescribable feeling, a little painful, a little sad.

That feeling remained, after the safe delivery, after Eris fell back to sleep from relief, and even after Aisha went to bed.

She was up all night, eyes wide awake.

Stretching her arms above her, she tried to recall the sensation from carrying Ars.

The feelings on her hands were similar to Lucy and Lara.

But also subtly different, was it because he was a boy?

She didn't know.

But Aisha understood how happy it made she felt.

Tomorrow, come quickly, and let me greet that crying and bothersome Ars soon, she thought.

For her, there's something special about Ars.

But she couldn't say why...

Aisha changed that day.

No longer did she concern herself with what occupied her time in the past - her maid work, her hobbies, Onii-chan's requests, and consultation with the mercenary corp.

When asked for Aisha, the answer was always "taking care of Ars."

Maybe it's part of her maid work.

But for Aisha it was different.

Maybe it's a hobby of sorts? No, also different.

Because what she wanted was to see Ars. If possible, chat with him.

Grow up soon, she eagerly anticipated.

In that moment she realized, this was the first time she liked someone, for a reason other than their capabilities.

The other turning point was Norn's wedding.

Norn Greyrat and Ruijerd Supardia got married.

A marriage partner Aisha couldn't ever imagine.

A completely different race, and such a large age gap.

But Norn had said.

How she liked him since long ago.

Loved him.

Aisha didn't understand this word call "love."

Romance and love, these feelings were foreign to her.

Mother and Father, and of course she liked Rudeus.

Since their reunion in Shirone Kingdom.

But thoughts of marriage or kids were never on her mind.

If Rudeus wished to wed her, she certainly wouldn't refuse, but for her it would be a natural extension of her role as a maid.

Luckily, Rudeus wasn't interested and maintained a happy distance with her.

So she never understood what love meant.

When she told Norn that, Norn drew a blank.

Why you mean you couldn't understand? Her face seem to say.

Seeing that expression, Aisha felt a sense of defeat.

From a long time ago, Aisha disliked her older sister Norn.

Since very little, Norn was often more emotional than rational, and frequently made selfish demands.

Instead of being so demanding, she could had worked for it, but nary did she make the effort.

Compared to Onii-chan, She was just an idiot.

But whether it be mother or Zenith, they both treated Norn so much better than her.

Their birth had long decided their treatments.

Even if she accepted that, serving an idiot like Norn caused Aisha to pent up much stress.

Because Norn just kept tormenting Onii-chan and her.

That's why she didn't respect Norn.

Aisha would always tell the slow-witted Norn, "Why don't you get it?"

From their reunion at Milis, until Norn start boarding at Magic University, she always said to her.

Aisha must held the same blank expression back then too.

It's not like Aisha always wanted to win, just that sense of superiority was always there.

But this time, she felt defeat.

"Ah, I lost. It's my loss this time, Norn-nee."

Aisha came to conclusion.

Losing to Norn.

First time in her life admitting defeat to Norn.

Surprised she might be, she didn't regret it.

Because Norn must have matured too, while she's not around.

Norn must have learned many things in the Magic University, which Aisha did not attend.

Not just in magic, sword, history, math, and other subjects.

Because Aisha understood knowledge alone wasn't maturity.

And if needs be, Aisha could always catch up on knowledge.

Maturity came from something more fundamental.

Norn joined the student council and met many different people.

After listening to many other point of views, she no longer made selfish demands.

She learned to not let her emotions get the better of her decision making.

Yet she remained sensitive to the feelings of others, and always treated her juniors with respect.

Just like Rudeus...

Not as much as Rudeus, but no longer someone she could easily dismiss.

That's why she doesn't regret it.

Rather than regret, she felt envy.

Even if it's just a part of it, she understood something Aisha didn't, a place Aisha couldn't reach.

But even so, Aisha couldn't do it.

Because ultimately she didn't understand how "love" felt.

No marriage prospects.

That's why even though Aisha felt envy for Norn's marriage, she wouldn't do the same.

She would never experience the happiness that Norn has.

Aisha decided.

But that's alright.

She was plenty happy, no reason to change that.

After that, everyday remained to the same.

Working as a maid, taking care of Ars, occasionally making an appearance at the Mercenary Corp, or fulfilling Onii-chan's requests.

Just like always.

Probably till death.

Even after Lucy, Lara, and Ars got married.

Even after Lilia and Zenith pass away.

She would never get married, and live out her life as the maid of the Greyrat House.

It's fine.

She thought.

Because she must have already decided.

No matter who she liked, she could never truly find happiness.

Until she rid herself of the curse of her past, until she stopped treating people beneath her with contempt.

Or else she would never have purposely ran to Norn's room and asked her, "what does 'love' mean?"

That's how it should be.

"I want to marry Aisha-nee!"

Yet when she heard that from Ars, the only boy that she treated without contempt, it moved her.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

Ars' confession moved Aisha.

An emotion she couldn't fathom welled up in her chest.

She kept asking.

What was this feeling?

Ars was special.

No matter how often or how badly he failed, Aisha never despised him.

Of course, she was equally forgiving with other children of Greyrat House.

When Lucy failed, when Lara failed, Aisha's evaluation of them did not drop. At worst, only slightly.

But Ars was different.

When he fails, Aisha's evaluation of him rather rises.

But he does succeed, it rises doubly so.

Special.

Her evaluation rises regardless of his ability.

Just wholeheartedly likes him.

Wholeheartedly likes.... so love?

Maybe that is love.

When she realized that, nothing else seemed to matter, and that didn't bother her.

Aisha and Ars finally did that and cemented their relationship.

Initially, she did said to Ars that it was practice.

She shouldn't be doing those things to Ars, her instincts told her.

Rudeus was someone who deeply abhor that sort of relationship between family.

Even though she didn't know why, making a move on Ars would certainly made Rudeus angry.

After all, Ars was the firstborn son, and also Rudeus' precious baby boy.

One day he'll perhaps take over as head of the Greyrat House.

Or perhaps, like Ars mentioned once, married off to a princess of Asura Kingdom.

Aisha didn't think it was unreasonable.

Whether in Shirone Kingdom, Holy Kingdom of Milis, or even in Rude Mercenary Corp, political marriages were commonplace.

Political marriage didn't necessarily lead to unhappy ones.

Or rather, more often political marriages ended up mutually beneficial for everyone involved. Whether in wealth, or finding peace.

After the wedding, it's up to the newlyweds to make the effort.

As long as they showed each other proper respect, a happy marriage shouldn't be a problem.

In truth, Aisha knew many happily married couples that came from political marriages.

Even though her mind told her this, her body wouldn't cooperate.

Soon it happened a second time, and a third.

Ars began ditching school, but she failed to scold him, and Aisha herself quit doing work at the Mercenary Corp.

Initially she thought it shouldn't be continued, but on the other hand, she believed that she could put a stop it anytime she wanted.

But she couldn't.

Carried away by impulse, and unable to control her passion.

Even knowing they shouldn't let it continue, they did.

Without any sort of planning, they could at best exercise only the most temporary of caution.

In such circumstance their relationship was impossible to conceal for long.

Only that Rudeus discovered it even earlier than anticipated.

It was just practice.

Practice.

Those feelings were mere practice.

Neither Ars nor I were genuine, just carried away by a momentary lust.

That hurt nobody.

But Sylphy saw through the act.

Having her true feelings exposed, Aisha couldn't help but scream out how she loved Ars.

But she was too naive.

Even though she knew Rudeus would get angry, she thought that he would discuss and eventually forgive her.

Maybe even as far as permit their relationship.

She thought.

In truth, that was where Sylphy was hoping to lead the conversation toward.

But the reality was completely different.

Rudeus refused to allow their relationship.

Showing a stubbornness she never saw from him, he forcefully split them apart.

Aisha never saw Rudeus like that before.

Unreasonable, irrational, stubborn.

First time in her life, she found Onii-chan refusing to reason.

But the expression on his face was a familiar one.

One she would never forget.

It was the same grimness as he build the magic armour for battle with Orsted.

Seeing that expression terrified Aisha.

In that moment, she felt, maybe she had made an enemy of Rudeus.

No doubt.

Because she had destroyed what Rudeus worked so hard to build.

With that thought, she pretended to appease Rudeus.

But that fear remained.

Returning to her room, regaining her breath, Aisha felt a pain piercing her heart.

Ars and her would be tore apart thereafter.

Ars would attend school abroad and find a marriage partner there.

Or she would be married off to someone else.

Because she would have done the same, given the situation.

Both Ars and Aisha would be happier that way, right?

Suddenly she thought.

Happiness.

What is happiness?

How could I find my own happiness..?

Aisha also realized.

She made a mistake.

If their relationship were to continue, the only future that awaits them is an unhappy one.

Rudeus was right.

Ars and I need to separate.

No matter how it pains my heart.

If not, not only Rudeus, I would be betraying the whole family.

It was Sylphy, Roxy, and Eris that entrusted Ars' upbringing to me.

The kids that so respectfully called me Aisha-nee.

They're not special like Ars.

But they're also irreplaceable part of Aisha's life.

But Aisha also realized.

Without Ars, she definitely couldn't find her happiness.

She could no longer go back to the life she once had.

If she saw Ars finding happiness without her, she would certainly regret it.

If only she did something back then? She would think.

Thus Aisha found what her heart desired.

Happiness.

She decided to elope with Ars.

Part 4[\[edit\]](#)

That day she settled on a plan, and in that night she and Ars absconded.

Spreading misinformation till dawn, then they headed to Asura Kingdom as planned.

From Asura Kingdom they took another teleportation circle to the Kingdom of Dragon King.

In Kingdom of Dragon King, she made contact with Perugius' underling and gained their cooperation.

She snuck in the Mercenary branch at Kingdom of Dragon King, and used the teleportation circle there to return to Orsted's office.

From there, they teleported to Holy Kingdom of Milis.

Using contacts at the local Mercenary branch, they headed to a unnamed rural village.

They changed their names and identity, while maintaining the flow of false rumours, and her life with Ars began.

Perfection.

A place even Rudeus could not find.

Going this far to erase their tracks.

Adding all the disruptions behind the scene.

Even though she could do little about Perugius or Kirishika, at least Perugius agreed to cooperate.

Short of a promise, but at least he agreed not to actively involved.

A village located in the midpoint of a lumbering route.

Unrecorded on maps, in a few years it would simply disappear all together.

Based on the lumber industry, so when the industry shifts, so will the village.

Of course their identities were kept secret, and Aisha always kept abreast of latest intel.

If her intelligence network notifies her of any sign of trouble, they're readied to pick up and leave, erasing any traces they left behind.

Even with Rudeus as opponent, she had the confidence that he could never find her.

She would not fail.

It's fine.

So Aisha told herself.

A couple's life with Ars.

While very fulfilling, is this truly happiness?

Because a pain remained in her heart still.

Not due to her new life with Ars.

Although Ars was no longer as dependent on her.

Even though he smiled, there's always a tense mood about him.

A smile like Rudeus', a smile like Norn's.

But also different from their fulfilled smiles.

Her own smile was probably the same as Ars'.

Indeed, something is wrong.

This isn't happiness.

Why is this wrong?

I haven't failed.

She thought.

Refusing to get to the bottom of it, because she only did what she wanted to do.

Aisha refused to admit defeat.

Accepting that was impossible for Aisha.

Then Aisha got pregnant.

Her body grew heavier, and movement became more difficult.

No longer able to collect intel, it's only a matter of time before Rudeus found them.

Only then she did finally admit defeat.

Her life's greatest error, one she couldn't place on anyone else.

Because even in failure, she refused to blame Ars.

Her beloved and special Ars, she could never fault him.

Aisha's personal evaluation hit a low point.

No escape.

She might as well have abducted Ars.

Even though Ars might have come on his own accord, without a doubt they had betrayed Rudeus.

She could no longer look her family in the eyes.

Even if they meet again, there's no doubt she had betrayed everyone. She doesn't deserve to meet her family.

Ran away for a year, and now pregnant to boot.

Utterly unforgivable.

Aisha gave up.

Part 5[[edit](#)]

--- Rudeus' Point of View ---

Aisha lays flat on a bed.

It's small and modest.

The blanket and bed sheets are in Aisha's preferences.

A small figure and potted plant lined the windowsill.

From there sunlight shines, bathing Aisha's face and hair.

Seeing Aisha, I could understand.

How we managed to find Aisha and Ars.

If she really tried, I don't think anyone would ever find them.

In truth, they have already hid themselves for well over a year.

So was they suddenly found?

The answer was obvious with just one look at her.

Lying flat her back, a bump is visible on Aisha's belly.

She's pregnant.

Hampered by pregnancy, she could no longer maneuver freely about.

A chink in the armor.

"... So unexpected of Aisha."

Those words snuck from my lips.

Rare to see a mistake by the normally flawless Aisha.

She couldn't move if she's pregnant.

Aisha should have anticipated that.

After helping Sylphy and others with their pregnancies, she's no doubt aware.

Even if she hadn't experienced it personally, she could have at least expected it.

"That was what I thought too. Spent rest of my life with Ars. Even brother would never find us..."

"..."

"But I can't do anything right..."

Aisha looking down, rubbing her own belly.

"Because I like Ars. Even knowing the consequences of getting pregnant, I still desired it. It was wonderful. Because I love Ars."

Dark circles under Aisha's eyes.

She must have struggled.

She knew what can't happen, but she couldn't help herself.

Even if her mind was set, her body could do little to resist, and this was the consequence.

She couldn't help herself.

"Hey, Onii-chan, what's it all about, anyways?"

"Who knows, really? But I was the same way when Sylphy and I got married."

"Really... Then, it really was love."

Love.

Is it? I don't really know.

I suppose love and lust are two sides of the same coin.

Ultimately, they're both instincts.

"Why didn't you tell anybody?"

"They wouldn't approve. I knew it from the start."

"They might."

"They won't. I done wrong. No one would support me."

Even if Lilia strongly rejected them, Sylphy might had approved.

If we talked it out beforehand, maybe even I won't have been so stubborn.

"Hey, Onii-chan, is Ars alright?"

"... Yeah, but he did get a beating from Eris."

"I see. Ars is her baby boy... I'm glad he's fine..."

Aisha could finally breath a sigh of relief.

"Onii-chan, what's going to happen next?"

"Still thinking about it."

"No way for you to ever forgive me?"

"Sure I can."

"How? I'm about to birth a child for your precious baby boy!"

"The fault wasn't yours alone, that you had elope. I was wrong, and so was Ars---"

"Ars did nothing wrong. He was small. I seduced him and got him to do as I desired. It was my fault. Onii-chan, surely you knew that?"

"... Ars isn't a little kid anymore."

Even though he's still not yet mature, he's no longer that timid boy he was.

That boy decided on his own accord to be here.

No lies could decide that for him.

"Certainly Onii-chan refuses to acknowledge the baby in my belly."

"True, I hate to accept it. But, well, it can't be helped. What's done's done."

"You're not going to cut my belly open, pull the embryo out, and kill the baby?"

"Nobody would do that..."

"They do. The aristocracies in Milis do. If there's an unwanted pregnancy, they'll drug the mother, cut the belly, abort the baby, then use healing magic to stitch her back up. But with a degraded healing magic to ensure that she may never be pregnant again."

"Wow, how horrifying... Eh, well, I guess it's a form of abortion."

"Then you'll split Ars and I apart... No, wait, you're going to kill me?"

"I won't kill you. Stop that! Why do you keep imagining all these terrible things? Don't! Do you really think I would do anything like that?"

"But I betrayed you, Onii-chan! I seduced and abducted your most precious, that made you took arms against Orsted-sama, and made him my own! I knew family is everything to Onii-chan! You would never forgive the ones that caused us harm! I knew it when I saw Onii-chan's anger a year ago! I took your most precious, ruined it, and became your enemy. Yet, I thought I could survive, as long as I run away. But with my belly growing bigger by the day, I could no longer move about freely. No longer able to keep tabs on intel or the Mercenary. So terrified, I can no longer sleep, only wondering when Onii-chan will finally show. I could do nothing. My legs even refused to move today...!"

Aisha's voice was filled of sorrow.

I don't remember Aisha ever so pessimistic.

What changed in the past year?

No, perhaps it's morning sickness talking for her.

I should calm her down.

"Aisha, it's purely a fight between siblings. Yes, we might have overdid it a little, but I never saw you as my enemy, ever."

"But that day a year ago, you looked so terrifying. Like if someone had the audacity to belittle Roxy's race in front of you."

I unconsciously rubbed my chin when I heard that.

Really?

I looked like that?

Eh... I did that to Aisha...?

Yes, that did happen. I was irrational, and my emotions got the better of me. Perhaps I did act that way.

"... Well, how about now?"

"Like the day Norn got married."

"Okay, that works."

Saying that, I sat myself by the bed.

Lightly I paddled Aisha's stiffen legs.

Even though it sent shivers down her spine, Aisha did not resist.

Thin, yet strong. In the past year, these legs had traveled many roads. Her skin was a bit dry.

She's still shivering.

"Aisha. That kind of relationship between siblings is something I still can't get a handle on."

"Oh..."

"But that was due to my life's experience. Just that in my case, it was far worse, shameful, more one-sided, and even less unforgivable. So naturally I was yelled at, beaten, and abandoned... It was because of what happened back then, that I found it so instinctively repulsive."

If we're going to talk, I probably should start from the very beginning, but these words easily slipped out my mouth somehow.

In some ways, that was the start of it all.

And I guess it ended up well for me.

Even though I could never erase what had happened.

Nor could I ever apologize for what I done.

But how do I explain my past?

If I just declare in such a solemn situation, "Actually, I came from a different world!" Certainly no one would believe me.

Rather, they'll just be flabbergasted and wondering what game I'm playing.

"Ah, this was about Onii-chan's previous life in another world?"

I stopped patting her legs out of surprise.

"... I mention this before?"

"Based on the conversations with Nanahoshi, and the actions of Onii-chan with Orsted-Sama, I figured it out."

"Oh... I see."

So Aisha would understand?

She certainly has a knack for figuring things out...

"You been hiding it."

"I'm afraid to tell, especially with mother. All the pain she suffered for her baby, whom turns out a grown man. She'd despise me... Wouldn't you think so?"

"Not really. Orsted-sama also has memories of his past lives. It's rare, but it does happen. It's not like your personality changed suddenly or something. To me, Onii-chan has always been Onii-chan. Even if you end up a few years older, it's not a big deal."

"I see... Thank you."

I guess you could think of it that way.

Certainly, this world has had quite a few reincarnations, including Orsted.

Nothing so strange about adding me to that list.

"I doubt anyone would be overly shocked. Sylphy-nee will be fine, Roxy-nee will be fine.... Eris-nee, I am not too sure about her."

Eris already overheard about my past...

But she promised to kept it a secret.

She must had kept it.

"... Really?"

"So why not tell them? Everyone would probably just say, 'is that all?'"

"Because I'm already Rudeus? Imagine if the baby in your belly have memories of his previous life, won't you find that repulsive?"

"If he protects us as well as Onii-chan did, I won't mind."

"Oh, really..."

Is that all?

I thought it would be repulsive.

But maybe I just hate my old self.

So I keep imagining someone like me.

Aisha raised herself up and dragged her body next to mine.

"Want to tell me the whole story?"

"Sure."

With that said, I stood up, grabbed a chair nearby, and sat myself in front of Aisha.

Sitting in front of Aisha, I took a look at her belly.

Looks like she'll be in labor soon.

"In my previous life, I was a human scum. When I was young, I was pretty normal, but starting middle school---"

One by one, I told her everything about my past life.

What kind of person I was, my state of mind when I came to this world.

What still pained me in my heart, and what I managed to overcome.

It wasn't a long conversation.

Even though I spent thirty-four years in my previous life, it was nothing special.

While I was at it, I also talked about this life.

How Paul helped me.

How I felt when I found Norn.

How I felt about Lilia and Zenith.

And how I accepted Aisha as sister, as family.

Aisha listened in silence.

She chipped in the conversation at time, but mostly listened in silence.

"That's how, I ended up with a happy life that I didn't have in my past life. These days are precious to me."

I said in summary.

"Onii-chan is really incredible."

"Really?"

"If Onii-chan kills me right here, and I reincarnates, I wouldn't have tried so hard."

"... I said I won't already."

"I can't start a family."

"Really?"

"Yes. Even though I love Ars. I definitely can't start a family with Ars here."

What's this all about?

Ars love Aisha, swore to protect her.

But Aisha thinks differently?

"When Ars was born, I was so happy. But that wasn't love then, not what I feel now."

Now it's Aisha's turn to tell her life's story.

How excited she was when Ars borned.

Eagerly waiting for him to mature, protecting his everyday happiness.

Watching him grow day by day.

Then one day, out of the blue he confessed to her.

Since that day they threw caution to the wind.

Even though it's wrong, they lived uninhibited lives.

Then I found out.

Rejected in the family meeting, utterly defeated, yet she still likes Ars... wants happy lives with him.

So they eloped.

Then she got pregnant, and realized she's wrong.

This won't lead to happiness.

They just trapped themselves in misfortune.

Aisha's voice felt faint.

She seemed ready to give up the struggle.

"... There's two things I must ask you."

"Okay."

"Has Hitogami ever contacted you?"

During our discussion, I suddenly thought of the possibility.

Hitogami could easily interfere during the weakness bore by pregnancy.

If they eloped under the advice of Hitogami...

That'd make me really happy!

It was all his fault! So come home!

I would say.

"No, never. It was my idea."

"Is that so..."

Well, of course.

I have always cautioned them against Hitogami's advice.

Even without Hitogami's prodding, Aisha would have decided to elope anyways.

"And the other?"

"You didn't use contraception?"

"Onii-chan, there's only so many ways to buy the contraptions you made, I'll leave a trail if I did."

"Oh, you're right."

Even though there's a stash in the basement, for everyday use they're difficult to acquire.

"Can I ask one more?"

"But you already asked two... okay, fine."

"Are you happy?"

Aisha looked down after listening.

Her mouth closed, her face serious.

Then she said.

"I'm."

She is.

Happiness.

Aisha is, even though she knew this happiness couldn't continue.

No, it was because she has no other choice, it was for happiness that they eloped.

"If I didn't find you, would you have stayed happy?"

"..."

Aisha shook her head meekly.

"To this day, Ars lets me control him like a puppet, and I probably would never change either... In that case... probably..."

"I see."

I cleared my throat and stared right at Aisha.

"... Time for the main topic."

Aisha also looks back at me.

Even with the dark circles on her eye, there's an intensity in her eyes.

Different from before when she's ready to face death.

It's resolution.

"I have two wishes.

Please forgive Ars.

And also, the baby in my belly, please let him live."

Aisha rubbed her belly when she mentioned it.

She will be in labor any time now.

The baby will be born soon.

"..."

"I... I deserve death... or at least, punishment. I'm grateful that Onii-chan still sees me as family, but what I have done was unforgivable."

From a forward position, I leaned back.

With my back against the chair, I looked up towards the ceiling.

Trying to organize my thoughts.

Quickly organize what I want to say.

It's been a year. I had a year to think it.

"I think, given my past, I can't accept your relationship with Ars."

"Yes."

"Even without my past, I can't help but feel that you have betrayed my trust."

"Yes."

"But I'll give you my blessings."

"... Huh?"

"Even though I still find it difficult to accept, but I also understand my own internal scars. It's a emotional thing, so let's put emotions aside."

"No, that's not right. You shouldn't forgive me... This isn't just an emotional issue... If you forgive me, it'll ruin the reputation of Greyrat House. Greyrat House's fame was hard won; we must protect it."

"I don't really care about that..."

"It's not just Onii-chan. Lucy, Lara, Sieg, Lilia, and Zenith... They would also be unhappy. It might even cause them harm... That's why, punish me. So you can speak the truth when asked."

It kind of bothers me that Aisha insists on this.

Has she ignore how I treated her as family?

"No matter how twisted I become, I'll never abandon my family. If anyone ever dare to demand you killed, I will kill him. Doubly so if anyone dare to touch my children."

I straighten up, and looked towards Aisha.

Aisha stared at me wide eyed.

"Aisha. This time, you made a mistake. Eloping was the worst choice. But you also said it too, you had no other. It might be the first time you felt so trapped, but for average folks like me, it's common place. The mind is telling me no, but my body is telling me yes. Even when you know it, you can't do what's right."

Staring right at Aisha, I continued.

"If you have eloped with someone else's son, or if Ars became an invalid as a result, even I don't know what I would

do to you. But Ars has become strong. He's maturing properly. Ars is a child of my house, but so are you. Because both of you belong in my household, I instinctively find it repulsive. But also because you're both in my household, this problem should stay in the family."

I laid out every scenario.

Even though I don't want to be emotional, I guess it's an inherently emotional topic.

Now that I laid it all out there, I reached for my conclusion.

"This was a family problem, nobody has to die."

Aisha listened in silence, lips wired tight.

Tears began to flow from her eyes.

But Aisha quickly wiped them away.

"Let's figure it out, one problem at a time."

"Okay."

Aisha nodded.

Let's resolve this rationally.

Let's speak calmly and composed.

"First problem is Ars. He's my precious son, and he's still young. Making a move on him was wrong."

"Yes."

"But everyone grows up eventually. Even though you said Ars hasn't changed, I can tell how much more capable he became in the last year. Even if he's still immature in some ways. But same goes for everyone. Everyone is a little immature. Same goes for you. Do you accept your own immaturity for what happened?"

"Yes."

"Since he's still immature, Ars should continue his education. I hope that'll help him grow up. I will not allow for marriage before he reach adulthood. This I'm adamant on."

At the minimum, Ars still can't protect Aisha.

Even though he wants to, even though he has the will, he's still incapable.

He needs to toughen up, but I'm sure he's aware of that now.

That is plain to see, given the state of Aisha.

Even emotionally, he's not there to protect Aisha.

... Wait, was I ever there for my wives emotionally?

Put that aside for now.

"Until he graduates and become an adult, until he has a job and be independent, then I'll allow for your marriage. No, marriage alone won't be enough, since you would already have a child. I won't accept anything but complete effort."

"Ars is the firstborn son. What about the family legacy?"

"Greyrat House has no rules about that. We can have Lucy lead the family, or Ars can with you as his supporting wife."

"Surely, that's impossible? I'm just but a maid."

"If being maid is an issue, I'll just fire you. Honorable discharge as result of marriage."

"Haha, what?"

Aisha smiled.

Barely there, but she smiled.

"Next, your problem."

"... Em."

"First, you didn't discuss it with anyone. Whether it was making a move with Ars, or eloping, you never discussed it with anyone. If you did your ground work, someone would have stood up for you when I won't budge. If you did that, I could have prepared myself."

"... That's right. Why didn't I do anything? ... Maybe with Onii-chan as my opponent, I didn't want to use tricks?"

Why are you asking me?

Well, it would really have bothered me if someone stifled my objections.

"And your eloping caused everyone a lot of trouble."

"... Everyone's angry?"

"Everyone is worried about you."

"... Then what should I do?"

"Well, reflect on your actions. What to do after making a mistake. How to correct your errors. Apologize."

"Would I be forgiven if I apologize?"

"Talk it out first. That's up to the other side to decide."

In particular, Lilia.

The grandmother of the house was emotionally scarred by what happened.

There's no escape from that discussion.

"And you should have waited. Ars was just too young for that."

"... I know."

"But maybe you're at that age when it made you anxious."

"No, that's not... Probably not. I can't explain it..."

"... Regardless, at least wait until he becomes an adult. When Ars comes up to me and say, 'I'm independent now. Let me marry her.' and even I'll.. promptly refuse, but ultimately I'll cave. Because nobody will be doing anything wrong then."

Well, I might still be unreasonable and refuse. Lilia certainly wouldn't approve, but put that aside for now.

But at least I won't demand their separation.

And they won't have to elope.

Ultimately, Sylphy or Roxy would make me reconsider.

"And finally... my problem. I was also wrong."

"Onii-chan did nothing wrong."

"I always told you to live as you like. Yet as soon as we have our disagreement, I expected you to relent. That was wrong. I should have sorted my own feelings first before deciding."

"It couldn't be helped that things turned out that way. I was timid."

Em, I should remember that.

I need to reflect on my actions.

"Is there anything else, now that we said all that?"

"... Onii-chan, you need to communicate with your kids better."

"Ahh... You're right. Em... even though I don't know what to talk about, I'll try to make the time."

Looking over what happened, I could have talked more with Ars.

If Ars trusted me more, maybe this wouldn't have to happen.

Not just Ars.

Other children as well.

I should be more aware of what's going on with them.

"Anything else?"

"..."

"If not, how about we head home?"

"..."

"What to do with you and Ars, how about we decide it as a family again?"

"..."

Aisha held a troubled expression.

Is there some concerns we haven't discussed?

But without bringing up anything else, she nodded.

"Okay. I understand."

"Then I'll tell them to come in."

I stood back up.

After we get home, convince Lilia and let things return to normal...

That's not going to happen.

There's no going back.

Because a lot has changed.

The family grows by one.

Things change.

And when that happens, all we can do is move forward.

"Onii-chan."

"Em?"

While I was thinking that, Aisha called for me.

Turned around, Aisha's face a mess, in tears she said.

"Sorry."

"Em."

"I'm sorry... I'm an idiot... So sorry."

"..."

I walked toward Aisha, whose tears gushing out, and patted her on her head.

Aisha kept crying.

Sylphy and the others, who came in out of concern, were also crying.

Maybe because of how exemplar she always been, I never noticed, but my youngest sister might be a bigger baby than her older sister.

With that, the case of Aisha and Ars running away came to a close.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)

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Chapter 28: Aisha Greyrat[\[edit\]](#)

Part 1[\[edit\]](#)

Brought those two home.

As soon as she saw Aisha with a swollen belly, Lilia fell.

Not fainted, simply completely collapsed on the floor, but immediately she got back up and head to the kitchen, wielding a large knife on her return. I had rushed to disarm her.

"Let me go! Now that it comes to that, this is the only way I can make amend..!"

As she shouts, I snatched the knife from her hands. I hurried to explain what happened after Aisha eloped, what we already talked about, and that I have accepted their relationship.

After the explanation Lilia finally calmed down, visibly exhausted.

Then she fell asleep.

Her face so pale, it made you wonder if Lilia have always been so frail?

I suppose after spending a year of anxiety, it got the better of her.

While nursing Lilia, I carefully gave her my view of the matters.

Indeed, there are various opinions on marriage between close relatives.

But the feel between Aisha and Ars are mutual and sincere.

In the past year, Ars gained a sense of resolution, and Aisha also had grown.

And I, I would like them to have the freedom to live their own lives.

Lilia listened in silence as I slowly explained bit by bit.

"I was an unfaithful woma, seducing Paul-sama, hurting Zenith-sama."

"I think that's why my own daughter would thought to make a move on Ars-sama."

"All I could think about in the past year, was if only I haven't gave birth to that child."

"Of course, I didn't plan to actually say that to Aisha. Zenith-sama had already scold me once for saying so already."

Zenith was sitting on a chair in Lilia's room.

Same as always, looking dazed, at nowhere in particular.

I don't know when that conversation took place.

But even in her condition, Zenith could understand our conversation, could act upon it.

Words like "if I only haven't gave birth to that child" would certainly drew a beating.

Even I would been angry.

Because it robbed the purpose of the conversation Paul, Zenith, Lilia and I had on that particular day.

It would erase our happiness on the day when Norn and Aisha were born.

"It's one thing for her to seduce Ars-sama, but now that her belly is already so big, there's no turning back."

"... In the end, that girl is indeed of my blood. Seducing the master she swore to protect, buying rank with her body in exchange. It's all because of lowborn, lecher blood flowing in her."

"Even if she didn't intent to seduce Ars-sama... Aisha had no doubt manipulated Ars-sama."

I told her that she's wrong.

Aisha wasn't lowborn.

It was an accident.

The relationship just happened to be between master and servant.

If you like someone, you naturally want him to like you back.

And if you work hard at it, naturally he'll respond, even if he didn't felt the same way before.

It's only natural.

Aisha and Ars were always close, only an age gap separated them.

Indeed, Ars was a little too young, but Aisha wasn't much better. She might be older, but her heart was still young.

That's how I persuaded her.

"Rudeus-sama, what should I do?"

I replied, I have already accepted them.

So Aisha, Ars, and Lilia should sit down and calmly talk it out.

Find an understanding.

He maybe young, but Ars was also acting on his own initiative.

Aisha worked hard to love Ars in her own way.

Even if she had pushed Ars to fall for her, her feelings for him was no lie.

"I understand."

Then should I bring them over?

Or should we wait for a bit?

"Right now is fine."

With that said, I headed out the room.

I called out to Aisha and Ars, whom were waiting meekly in the living room. The children had them surrounded, peppering them with questions.

"Come."

"What happened?"

I explained Lilia's current condition and her thoughts on them.

She believed it was her fault that Aisha turned out like this.

And that Ars was definitely fooled by Aisha.

That she's in dismay over what happened.

And that they should have a proper talk with Lilia.

They nod in agreement and stood up.

I stopped them before they left the living room.

"Eh, what is it?"

Several things that you must discuss.

First, three things Ars must remember.

You are not visiting your grandma anymore, but the mother of your loved one.

It was because you couldn't protect your loved one, that you're in current predicament.

You need to ask the mother sincerely, for the hand of her daughter.

And three things Ars must understand.

How worried you made everyone around you.

What you done wrong.

Also What Aisha did wrong, and what her weaknesses are.

Then you need to consider.

How you'll protect Aisha from now on.

And what you still have to learn.

To accomplish these points, he must learn how Lilia felt.

He must have a heart to heart with the mother that raised Aisha, whom more than anyone else worried over her.

If she won't approve, he must convince her.

If he wishes to be with Aisha, he must pass that test.

"Okay! I get it!"

Ars nods. He reminds me of Eris.

Aisha, confide to her, all that you said me about what you felt since eloping.

Don't be like always, employing silence or lies to avoid confrontation.

Even if Lilia gets angry, even if she becomes agitated, bear it, and talk it out.

Have a true heart-to-heart.

"I understand."

Aisha and Ars nod in earnest.

Watching them walk away, I silently murmured, "do your best!"

Afterwards, I do not know what Aisha, Lilia, and Ars talked about.

They spoke for a long time, five, six hours, maybe even more.

Several times in the process I could hear Lilia screaming.

Aisha raised her voice once as well.

But as time passed, the shouting matches lessened, and eventually stopped.

And it was over.

When she came down stairs, Lilia looked utterly exhausted, near complete collapse, but her heart finally accepted them.

Part 2[[edit](#)]

Afterwards, Aisha and Ars apologized to rest of the family.

Sorry that we made you worried.

Sorry that we caused you trouble.

Sorry that we betrayed you.

They kept their heads down throughout.

Nobody really pushed the issue over what happened.

Even though Lucy glared at Ars, and Norn scolded Aisha.

Ultimately everyone breathed a little easier.

Then it's Aisha's and Ars' punishment.

It's a bit complicated.

First, cut off relationship with Aisha.

Removed from the family name.

This was on Aisha's own suggestion.

The traitor must be punished.

True in every world.

Aisha also suggest ruining the traitor's reproductive organs, but I flatly refused it.

Instead, after Aisha gave birth, she'll lose her family name and be banished.

By banished, I mean she'll attend Asura Royal Academy.

From the ordeal, she realized her own immaturity.

Become a more wholesome individual from school... Maybe not that far, but she felt she need a fresh start with her education.

Learn how to better empathize with others, she explained.

Also as punishment for what happened, her child will be left in my care.

Until Ars can stand on his own two feet, she would not reunite with her child.

After giving birth, she'll only have a brief respite with the child.

That was Aisha's punishment.

Aisha said I'm letting her off easy, but I thought that would be enough.

Because I myself understand the pain of not being able to see one's own flesh and blood.

Well, even if it's for Aisha's own good, I couldn't help but feel sorry for the innocent child torn from his mother.

Poor child.

Of course, I'll dutifully care for him...

But it still might leave the child scarred for life.

Now that I thought about it, is this really necessary? Just let Aisha stay home and flirt with Ars. I thought of that too.

But this time, Aisha really ought to accept some punishment.

She must understand the consequences of her actions, and have them carved deep in her heart.

Given that, the only thing I could do is to shower the child with even more love than a mother can provide.

Of course, just because we banished her doesn't mean I abandoned her.

After separate from Ars, can Aisha survive and grow on her own?

I look forward to finding out.

This time she definitely can do it.

Ars returned to school after he came home.

He didn't receive an equal punishment, in consideration of his age.

But neither physically or mentally, he could be Aisha's support.

I hope he would properly reflect on what happened, and use that as motivation to mature.

And once Ars graduates and becomes an adult, once Eris and I determined that he can live independently, then he can go do as he pleases.

If he wants to go off to Asura Kingdom and bring back Aisha for marriage, I'll allow it.

As expected, Ars hated the idea of separating from Aisha.

But after the result of his battle with Eris, after seeing the dark circles under Aisha's eyes, he timidly agreed.

Even though he may not be ready in mind or body, at least his will and fighting spirit are already there.

Ars will definitely grow up and marry Aisha.

If after growing up he lost interest in Aisha, I'd make him pay for knocking her up.

To the public, I announced that Ars got engaged, and Aisha married off somewhere.

No reason to air our family's dirty laundry to strangers, or cause more trouble for the children... Aisha said.

After that I brought Ars and Aisha to various places to apologize.

All the people involved in the search.

Explained to them what happened.

Of course due to the trouble they caused, I also explained the punishments for Ars and Aisha.

Like always, Zanoba laughed happily and said, "Hahaha, you found what's most important!"

Ariel inquired, "Since you banished Aisha, can I pick her up?"

Orsted was as always with a fearsome expression, he simply nod.

Alek apparently managed to track down Kirishika in the Demon Continent, and was about to boast me on her whereabouts, but it's a little late for that.

Ruijerd felt conflicted about the whole situation, so he finally could breathe a sigh of relief.

Perugius sneakered, "Ha! So you got caught!" Speaking of which, in this Aisha instance, even though he wasn't active, he seem to have gave Aisha a hand. I should snitch on him to Orsted.

When we went to the Mercenary Corp, those that took Aisha's side had their tails stiff and won't look me in the eyes.

These bunch of traitors.

The original purpose of the Mercenary Corp was to expand Orsted's influence throughout the world.

With so many traitors, should I just clean house?

Even though I had that passing thought, I'm aware of the possibility of traitors from the start.

Since this organization was designed from ground up to counter Hitogami.

In the first place, Aisha wield everyone's weakness as protection against Hitogami's ability to turn people.

Even though Aisha took that power for something naughty...

But this time, I'll let the Mercenary Corp off easy. Since there are individuals that stuck by my side, like Rinia and Pursena. This way they all owe me one.

On the flip side, even if I clean house, there's so many branches all over the world. It would just be a hassle. Since many had knowledge of the teleportation circles and telecommunication tablets, it may cause trouble.

Speaking of Rinia and Pursena, they're busy scolding all the traitors.

Even though they didn't do much either...

Even though, all the Corp members that took Aisha's side, even though they're terrified, none of them said "I was only following orders" or "I was threatened."

Rather, they all adored Aisha.

I hope Aisha would appreciate their sentiments next time.

Regardless, no one was angry.

Just a little unease.

After the apology tour, Aisha gave birth.

Part 3[\[edit\]](#)

The son of Aisha and Ars.

He'll be my first grandchild, a son.

Named Leroy.

Leroy Greyrat.

Smart like Aisha, but like large breasts like Ars. Like both his parents, he's a rowdy boy.

Originally I suggest naming him after his parents, or maybe grandparents, but Aisha laughed it off as something only Onii-chan would do.

Still, my first grandchild, it doesn't feel real yet.

Since Chris was but a baby merely years ago.

It feels more like a new child instead.

Somehow I'm already a grandfather...

Aisha sure knows how to take care of babies.

Hard to believe this was her first.

But not wholly unexpected, since I had relied on her from Lucy until Chris.

Not that she was alone in the effort, but she always had a knack for it.

As expected, she had the knack as mother too.

Of course, all the women in the family helped with childrearing.

Despite what happened, everyone welcomed Leroy and dote on him.

That maked me happy.

In particular was Lilia, who made a complete 180 as soon as Leroy was born.

You would never believe she once opposed Aisha's and Ars' relationship, seeing how she spoiled Leroy.

Not that I can't understand it.

Since Lilia and I don't have blood relations, Leroy is her first grandson.

If it wasn't for the fact that Ars was my son, there would be no reason for her to ever resist doting him.

Even though Lilia is fine with, I'm getting worried that he'll be spoiled rotten at this rate.

Ars is diligently learning how to change diapers.

Right now he's eagerly learning from Aisha and Lilia how to raise a child.

Even though I agreed to raise him, I'll mostly leaving that to Ars.

Of course, I'll be supporting him on the side.

But ultimately, Ars needs to be able to handle his job as a parent.

Even though he's twelve, he's already a father, there's no escape from the responsibility.

Ars is self aware of this point, and giving it his all.

Attending school like normal, training even harder with Eris. Working hard in other aspects as well.

One day, he'll catch up with Aisha.

"..."

Are my kids all going to get married off, one after another? How many gaggles of grandkids will I have?

Even though Ars might be a bit early, but Lucy has already reached marriageable age.

Although Clive and her dated, now that he's off to Milis, I'm worried that they will grow apart.

Maybe they have committed to something before separating, but reality could be cruel.

Maybe Lucy would find new love when boarding at Asura Royal Academy, and end up dating someone else.

Lara doesn't seem particularly inclined in that direction... But she also seems like the type of kid that would suddenly bring a boy home.

Leo still sticks to her like glue. Maybe Leo will help her find someone...

A little too early for Sieg and the rest.

Still, seeing Ars already is a father at his age, would the other ones try to one-up him?

That I do not know.

Maybe it'll happen again, another prospect with a complicated background.

Since she's such a daddy's girl, maybe she'll end up bringing a fat 34 year old NEET home...

I might feel repulsed and flatly reject him, but eventually I'd have to have a proper talk with her.

If he's a NEET, maybe we could get along rather well.

No, more than making good conversations, what matters is his strengths.

"Ah, my breasts. Leroy you're such a brat."

"Aisha, don't spoil him."

"Yes, mother."

Leroy is happily burying his face in Aisha's chest.

Lilia sits by, smiling warmly.

Ars has a "it can't be helped" look on his face.

Don't act like that, you're exactly the same when you're little.

... Eh?

Don't tell me Leroy will make a move on Lilia or Chris when he turns ten...?

I'll be a great-grandfather by forty?

No, no, that's impossible.

That won't happen again in this household.

"..."

Well, I don't know how it'll turn out, and there's no way to predict the future.

If that happens again, maybe I'll get a better handle on it than this time.

Looking at how the blessing before me, I couldn't help be wonder.

Part 4[\[edit\]](#)

Then it's time for separation.

Aisha switched to a travel outfit, completely different from what she wore as a maid, carrying a baggage on her back.

In it only a few select cloth and personal items from her room.

But no maid costume.

The maid costume she had wore for so long is now stored in the basement.

"Goodbye, Leroy..."

Aisha hugs Leroy.

The boy she only spent a few short days with.

Even though she once said the punishment was too light, but as she hugged Leroy, tears still flood out.

Seeing this, I knew that Leroy wasn't a unwanted boy, and couldn't help but cry also.

"Well, mother, Onii-chan, I'll leave Leroy to you."

Aisha hands Leroy to Lilia.

Leroy looks blankly at Aisha.

But soon as if realizing something, he suddenly cries out.

Instincts told him that mother is leaving him.

Aisha could only kiss the crying Leroy on the cheek.

"Ars, do your best."

"Yes!"

Ars answered.

He's still small.

He now reached Aisha height-wise.

When they reunite, he'll probably be even taller.

"Well, everyone, I'm heading out."

To those seeing her off, Aisha finally said, "I'm heading out."

Not good bye, not I'm sorry, just that I'm heading out.

That makes me glad.

Aisha steps by the gate, and turns around once more.

Looking at me, the three wives, and the kids.

She slightly bowed.

Then after touching Beat by the gate, she leaves.

"... Hey, Sylphy, Roxy, Eris."

When I head back in, I called out to the three wives.

They all stopped to look at me.

Looking surprised.

"I have something I must say. Can you come to the bedroom?"

"... Is it important?"

"Yes, very important."

Maybe not absolutely necessary.

That's what I still believe.

But I do want to tell.

After telling Aisha, I must tell them too.

About memory of my past life.

And who I was in my past life.

After today, I'll spend more time with my children, talk with them more, play with them more.

That way, I won't let this mistake repeat itself.

But no matter how careful, no matter how clear minded, sometimes the body can't control itself.

Since in the memory of my past life, there are probably other terrible scars that I still don't remember.

I want to explain to my wives that.

That way if I act unreasonable again, they could come to my aid.

"It's very, very important."

I won't disappoint again.

Holding on to that belief, we head to the bedroom.

Part 5[\[edit\]](#)

Four years passed.

Eris has passed on to Ars "Longsword of Light".

Sword God Style Saint Level.

Water and Fire Magic Advanced Level.

Even though he's not very good at healing magic, in chantless magic he has reached Intermediate Level.

Because he was held back a grade, he couldn't graduate on stage, but he still scored very highly.

On his graduation, I asked Ars, have you become an adult that can stand on your own two feet yet? Are you mentally and physically prepared to protect Aisha?

Ars said he didn't know.

But reflecting on what happened, and he understood that it could not have continued. Yet he still loved Aisha the same as those days, he'll keep working hard, he answered.

Pleased by his answer, I said, "I'm waiting for you."

Ars gasp in surprise.

And loudly he shout, "Yes!"

Then he raced toward Asura Kingdom to marry Aisha, who had already graduated and currently working under Ariel.

In four years, Aisha had changed slightly as well.

She now work hard to empathize with others.

No longer just pinging for their weaknesses, less often speaking selfishly, no longer constantly scheming, and tries to look for the best solution rather than only the most efficient.

In a way, Aisha no longer has the edge she once had.

But the current Aisha no longer tries to use everyone around her to her own advantage, and no longer pressure people just to get things done.

I think this is also personal growth.

The couple settled down in City of Magic Sharia and bought a house.

Ars, Aisha, and Leroy are living together there.

Of course, they maintained a warm relationship with my house.

They'll often visit, and we always welcome them.

Like before, Aisha would busy herself on housework, tending her gardens.

But she no longer wears her maid uniform.

Never again would she wear a maid uniform.

Aisha had finally became an adult.

Translator's Notes and References[\[edit\]](#)